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DEC

**THE NUMBERS
DON'T LIE—IT'S
BEEN A LONG,
STRANGE YEAR**
pages 6-7



Chicago athletes think ink **12** A sweet no-plan NYE **18** Major movie rewind **22**

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT, DRINK, DO IDEAS AT REDEYETCHICAGO.COM

EAT

SURF AND TURF BRUNCH

GT Fish & Oyster

531 N. Wells St. 312-929-3501

This River North seafood spot recently added a weekend brunch menu that represents both land and sea with dishes like biscuits and lobster gravy (\$15), fried chicken and waffles (\$11) and shrimp and grits (\$13). 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

DRINK

TOAST OF THE TOWN

Municipal Bar + Dining Company

216 W. Ohio St. 312-951-2125

What does Chicago taste like? Find out at this new River North sports bar, which serves local craft beers and \$11 cocktails named for the city's neighborhoods like the Little Village, a blend of tequila, lemon juice, pear liqueur, ginger beer and muddled blackberries. 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday through Sunday.

DRINK IN THE BEAUTY Argo Tea

16 W. Randolph St. 773-817-3526

Start your weekend with a bit of education at From Venice to Chicago, a presentation and Q&A from Italian architect Piero Siega. The event includes a tea tasting and snacks. 5 p.m. Friday.



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DO

COOL RIDE Daley Plaza

50 W. Washington St.
The temperature's dropped, but that doesn't mean you have to retire your bike until spring. Bundle up and join other dedicated cyclists for the monthly Chicago Critical Mass bike ride. 5:30 p.m. Friday. chicagocriticalmass.org

OSCAR BUZZ

Music Box Theatre

3733 N. Southport Ave. 773-871-6607

Whether you're rooting for "Zero Dark Thirty" or "Lincoln," get psyched for awards season by watching the silent film "Sunrise," which won Best Cinematography at the very first Academy Awards ceremony in 1929. The screening kicks off the theater's Oscar-winning films matinee series, which runs every weekend through Feb. 24. \$7.25. 11:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

DESIGNATED DRIVERS

The Underground

56 W. Illinois St. 312-644-7600

Help support the victims of drunk driving at the VodDo Holiday Party. The benefit includes finger food and a gift bag, plus Uber car service makes sure you'll get home safe by offering a free trip (up to \$30) to new clients. They're also donating \$5 to the cause for every ride. \$25-\$30. 8 p.m.

REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

Tickets are on sale for the world premiere of "Teddy Ferrara" at the Goodman Theatre, Feb. 2 through March 3. goodmantheatre.org.

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BICKERING 101: INSIDE THE DEBATES

Reuters

The House and Senate passed bills months ago reflecting their own sharply divergent positions on the expiring low tax rates, which went into effect during the administration of Republican former President George W. Bush.

Democrats want to allow the tax cuts to expire on the wealthiest Americans. Republicans want to extend the tax cuts for everyone.

Congress has proven that it can act swiftly once an agreement is reached. Hope persists that Republicans and Democrats might come up with a resolution before New Year's Day that could at least postpone the impact of the tax hikes and spending cuts while further discussions take place.

That gives some hope to world markets.

"There is still hope for a last-minute deal, otherwise we're in for a correction in January. People have already priced in an agreement. Without it, the market can't stay at these levels," a Paris-based trader said.

Another battle is on the horizon in late January or early February over raising the debt ceiling, which puts a limit on the amount of money the government can borrow to pay its debts and can be raised only with the approval of Congress.

Republican leaders have said they will insist on more budget cuts as a condition of raising the ceiling. Without any action, the U.S. Treasury said Wednesday, the government is set to reach its \$16.4 trillion debt ceiling on Dec. 31.

The Treasury Department is to begin "extraordinary measures" to buy time. Many analysts believe the government can stave off the default date into late February.

CLIFF NOTES

Lawmakers still butting heads over tax deal

Reuters

WASHINGTON Lawmakers on Thursday gave themselves a last chance to prevent the country from plunging off a "fiscal cliff" by setting up a late session in Congress just about a day before taxes are due to rise for most working Americans.

Republican leaders in the House of Representatives told their members to be back in Washington from the Christmas holiday break Sunday night in case they need to vote on budget measures.

That leaves the door open to a last-minute solution to avert big tax hikes due to begin on Jan. 1 and deep, automatic government spending cuts set to begin on Jan. 2—to

gether worth \$600 billion—that could push the country back into recession.

But the two political parties remained far apart, particularly over plans to increase taxes on the wealthiest Americans to help close the budget deficit.

"Hopefully, there is still time for an agreement of some kind that saves the taxpayers from a wholly, wholly preventable economic crisis," Mitch McConnell, the top Republican in the Democratic-controlled Senate, said on the Senate floor.

Stocks sharply cut losses after news of the House reconvening as investors clung to hopes of an eleventh hour deal.

Earlier in the day, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, the top Democrat in Congress, warned that the U.S. looked to be headed over

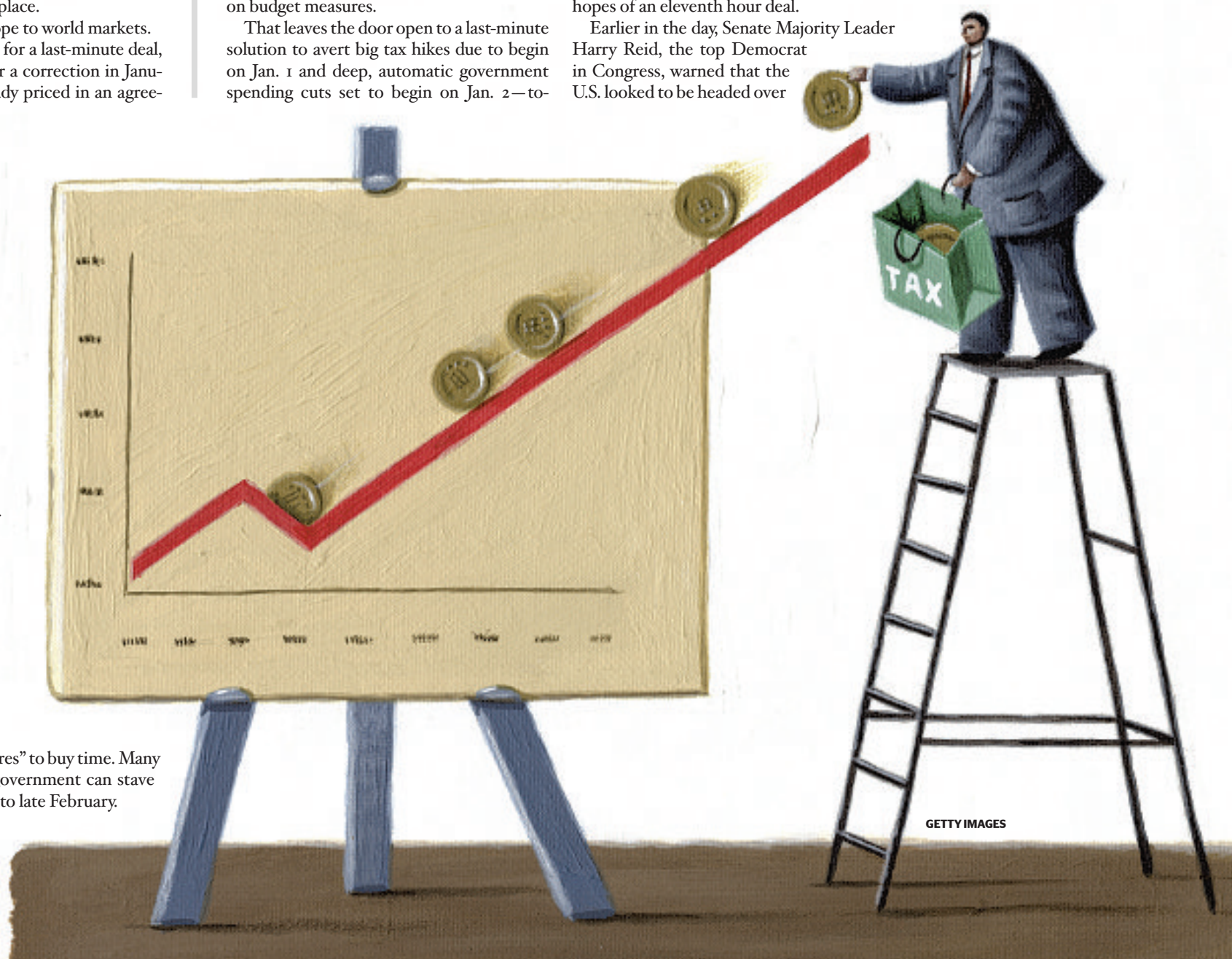
the "fiscal cliff."

"It looks like that is where we're headed," he said on the Senate floor, blaming Republicans for the impasse in talks.

He called on the Republicans who control the House to prevent the worst of the fiscal shock by getting behind a Senate bill to extend existing tax cuts for all except those households earning more than \$250,000 a year.

With the clock ticking toward the deadline for action, Reid offered little hope.

"I don't know time-wise how it can happen now," he said.



GETTY IMAGES

In the year 2013 ...



Matt Kuttan

» redeye@tribune.com
» @mattkuttan



REDEYE FILE

I usually wait until New Year's Day to make my resolutions, but hey, we just survived the Mayan apocalypse, so why wait? Here's my 2013 checklist.



» Return all the "Fifty Shades of Grey" toys I, uh, accidentally purchased.

- » Never take my pet monkey to Ikea in a faux shearling coat.
- » Schedule a fight with Manny Pacquiao.
- » Accept that Brandon Marshall is the greatest receiver the Bears ever had and buy his jersey.
- » Submit the name "WTFland" for the Iceland renaming contest.
- » Bet \$100 on Alabama beating Notre Dame by three touchdowns.
- » Never sing "Call Me Maybe" at a karaoke bar.
- » Cut Oprah a break and finally start watching the OWN channel.

« Perfect my McKayla Maroney not-amused face.

- » Accept that it's not the men but Taylor Swift who is the bloody problem.
- » Accept that "Gangnam Style" will become a staple at weddings from now on.
- » Pack on 100 pounds and try out for the Bears' offensive line.

MATT KUTTAN IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



REUTERS FILE

» Even though I'm not from Portland, I just might finally try kale.

- » Wear ear protection next time I watch "Magic Mike" with my wife and her girlfriends.
- » Start a "Bring Ozzie back to the South Side" meme.
- » Stop "liking" lottery-winner hoaxes on Facebook.
- » Don't take the bet on the Cubs losing fewer than 100 games.
- » Jump on the Seth MacFarlane bandwagon.
- » Write a column without mentioning a Kardashian. No, wait, I'm not giving up that one.
- » Purge the words "swag," "epic" and "man-cave" from my vocabulary.
- » Grow a moustache in November, even if I look like a creep.
- » Avoid the office pool to guess the name of Kate Middleton's baby.



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CHRIS WALKER/TRIBUNE FILE



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Why You Should Follow: If you unfollowed all the overexcited folks who tweet "OMG SNOWWWWWIIIIII" at the site of each flake, you might not actually be alerted when a real storm is coming. Breaking News Storm sends real-time updates about severe weather 24/7, saving you the trouble of guessing which #snowpocalypse tags are the real deal.

SAMPLE TWEET: O'Hare airport in Chicago cancels up to 390 flights, Midway cancels 121 - @mlkeseldel <http://bit.ly/XQbFO2>



The shrimp sandwich at Little Goat
HILARY HIGGINS/REDEYE



@LisaMarnett

Why You Should Follow: Of course, RedEye's food-seeking Eat & Drink editor is constantly on the hunt for the next tasty bite. But bonus: She's also got her finger on the pulse of fashion, culture and arts events in the city. Follow her to keep up-to-date with openings, closings and need-to-know restaurant info.

SAMPLE TWEET: News to wake you from your holiday coma: Little Goat Diner opens Friday!



@YourAway Message

Why You Should Follow: If you

had an AOL screenname in the '90s—come on, you know you did, pippenfan6060—then you remember the art of the away message. It was a subtle challenge to convey your kewl plans (to watch Friends in your pjs) with the appropriate number of asterisks and Blink 182 quotes. This account helps us relive all the magic. Cringe.

SAMPLE TWEET

We'RE the kinda {guRLs} that will randomly burst out laughing about something that happened {two} weeks ago. I me + my ladies! |

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» Number of weeks **Carly Rae Jepsen's** "Call Me Maybe" and Maroon 5's "One More Night" each spent atop the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart. Gotye and Kimbra's "Somebody That I Used to Know" was the year's next longest-running No. 1 song, at eight weeks leading the chart.

1.066
BILLION

» Number of YouTube views South Korean singer **Psy's** ridiculous "Gangnam Style" video reached to pass Justin Bieber's "Baby" as the site's most viewed.



2012 SEE YA!

WHAT A WEIRD, WONDERFUL AND WORRISOME TRIP IT'S BEEN

By **Kyle Kramer** | FOR REDEYE

What a year! Wow! 366 days (it was a leap year) of stuff just happening nonstop! Everywhere we looked, there was news, out there, occurring! Some of it was good, some of it was bad, some of it made for cringeworthy memes. And whether we were fact-checking the Mayan calendar to see if we should bother making dinner plans for Dec. 22 or constantly refreshing Nate Silver's polling roundups to decide how to play our electoral college betting pool, it was a year in which numbers reigned supreme.

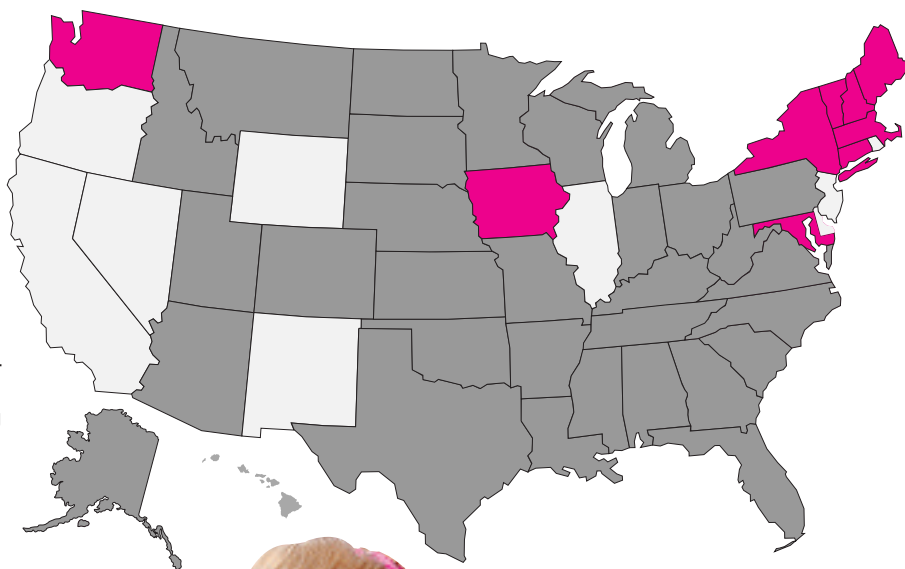
We determined how many times you only live (Answer: once; #yolo) and how many people thought Rick Santorum should be president (a lot). We watched in horror as the death toll mounted from shootings at and around an elementary school in Newtown, Conn. (28), a movie theater in Aurora, Colo. (12) and a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisc. (7), among others. We pretended we were authorities on the scoring system in women's gymnastics and kept count of the number of opponents Katniss had left to face in "The Hunger Games." We tallied the damage of Hurricane Sandy (\$50 billion) and the net worth of Blue Ivy Carter (also \$50 billion?). We witnessed the price of a Twinkie rise to a thousand times the price of a gallon of gas. Yes, 2012 was a year of numbers. Here are some more that stood out. **KYLE KRAMER IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR**

9

« Number of states in which same-sex marriage is legal, following the success of November ballot measures in Maine, Maryland and Washington. It's also legal in D.C.

31

« Number of states in which same-sex marriage is prohibited by constitutional amendments, following the success of a May ballot measure in North Carolina.



» Age of Chicago rapper **Chief Keef** when he signed a deal with Interscope Records, on the strength of viral hits "Don't Like" and "3hunna," released while he was on house arrest at his grandmother's house.

16



« Age of "Toddlers and Tiaras" star Alana "Honey Boo Boo" Thompson when her spin-off hit, "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo," debuted in August on TLC.



16



« Share of voters Mitt Romney claimed, in leaked footage from a private fundraiser, "will vote for the president no matter what" due to the fact that they do not pay income tax. The comment became a central talking point of the election. Also, Romney's final share of the popular vote.

\$ **16**
BILLION

« Value of Facebook's May 18 IPO, the largest of any tech company ever.

44
« Days elapsed between the death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin and the arrest of shooter George Zimmerman, during which period the Florida case became a lightning rod for national discussions about race and gun violence.



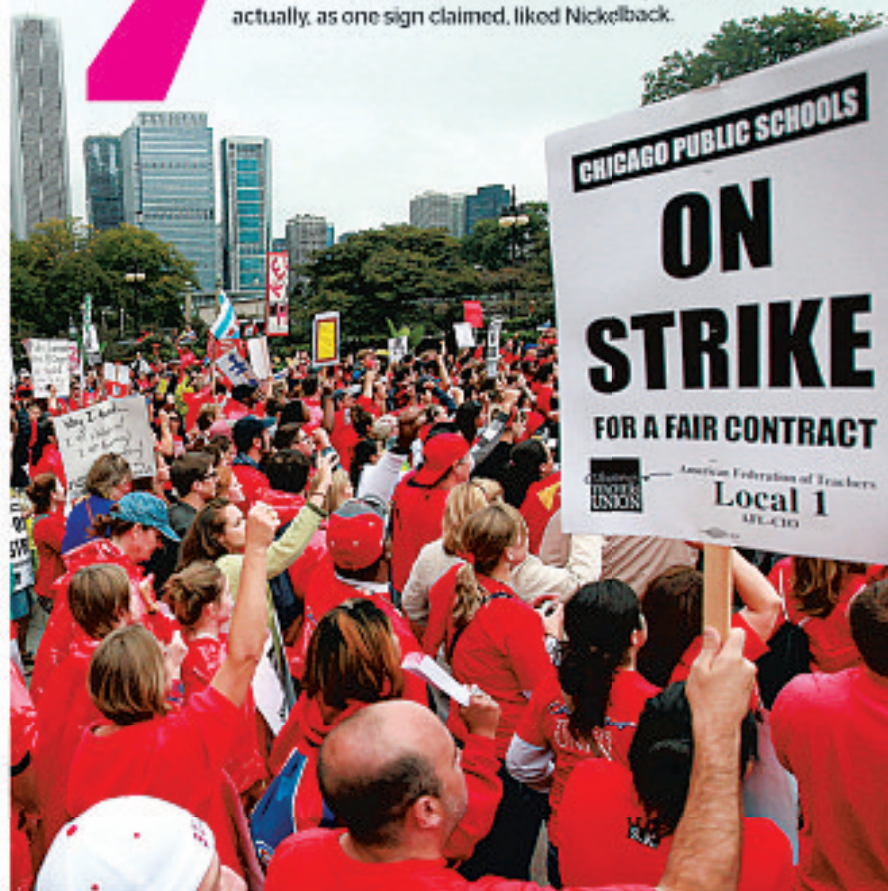
« Estimated number of hours of police time that will be saved annually by Chicago's decision to decriminalize marijuana possession for amounts less than 15 grams.

500

Number of homicides in Chicago as of Thursday, surpassing the 2011 total of 440.

7

« Duration, in school days, of September's Chicago Teachers Union strike, which contested issues such as teacher pay, the duration of the school day, the percentage of teacher performance evaluations that should be tied to standardized test results and whether Mayor Emanuel actually, as one sign claimed, liked Nickelback.



« Lifetime medal count reached by swimmer Michael Phelps during the 2012 Olympic Games, a record for any Olympic athlete.

46

« Number of gold medals won by Team USA at the 2012 London Olympics, its highest count since 1904, when it swept the Tug of War events.



« Age of Lena Dunham, creator and star of the heavily-discussed HBO show "Girls," when it was nominated for four Emmy awards this summer.



12.24%

« Percentage of production budget for Disney's \$250 million "John Carter" recouped during its \$30.6 million domestic opening weekend, making the sci-fi epic an instant punchline.



« Total domestic box office take of "Marvel's The Avengers," the year's highest-grossing movie.



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chicago



Not bad

As the Northeast was battered by a powerful winter storm Thursday, Chicago was hit by a gentler weather system that was expected to coat parts of the area with an inch or more of snow by Friday. "There will be mainly light snow that will cause some visibility reduction," said Richard Castro, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. **HEATHER CHARLES/TRIBUNE**

Chicago reaches 500 homicides in 2012

By Tracy Swartz

REDEYE

Chicago on Wednesday logged its 500th homicide of the year—the first time the city has reached that threshold since 2008, according to a RedEye analysis of preliminary police data.

A man was shot to death Wednesday in an alley east of California Avenue and south of 54th Street, the Tribune reported.

Chicago homicides are up 15 percent this year compared to the same period last year,

according to RedEye data. Homicides were up 60 percent in March compared to 2011 but the rate has slowed since then.

Eighteen homicides have been logged so far this month; 37 homicides were logged in December 2011, RedEye data shows.

The number of homicides had been steadily decreasing since 2008, when 513 killings were recorded. Before 2008, the city had not surpassed 500 homicides since 2003, when more than 600 homicides were logged.

Carlton Fisk pleads guilty to DUI

Former White Sox catcher Carlton Fisk pleaded guilty Thursday to a misdemeanor DUI charge after mixing alcohol and prescription drugs and driving into a New Lenox, Ill., farm field.

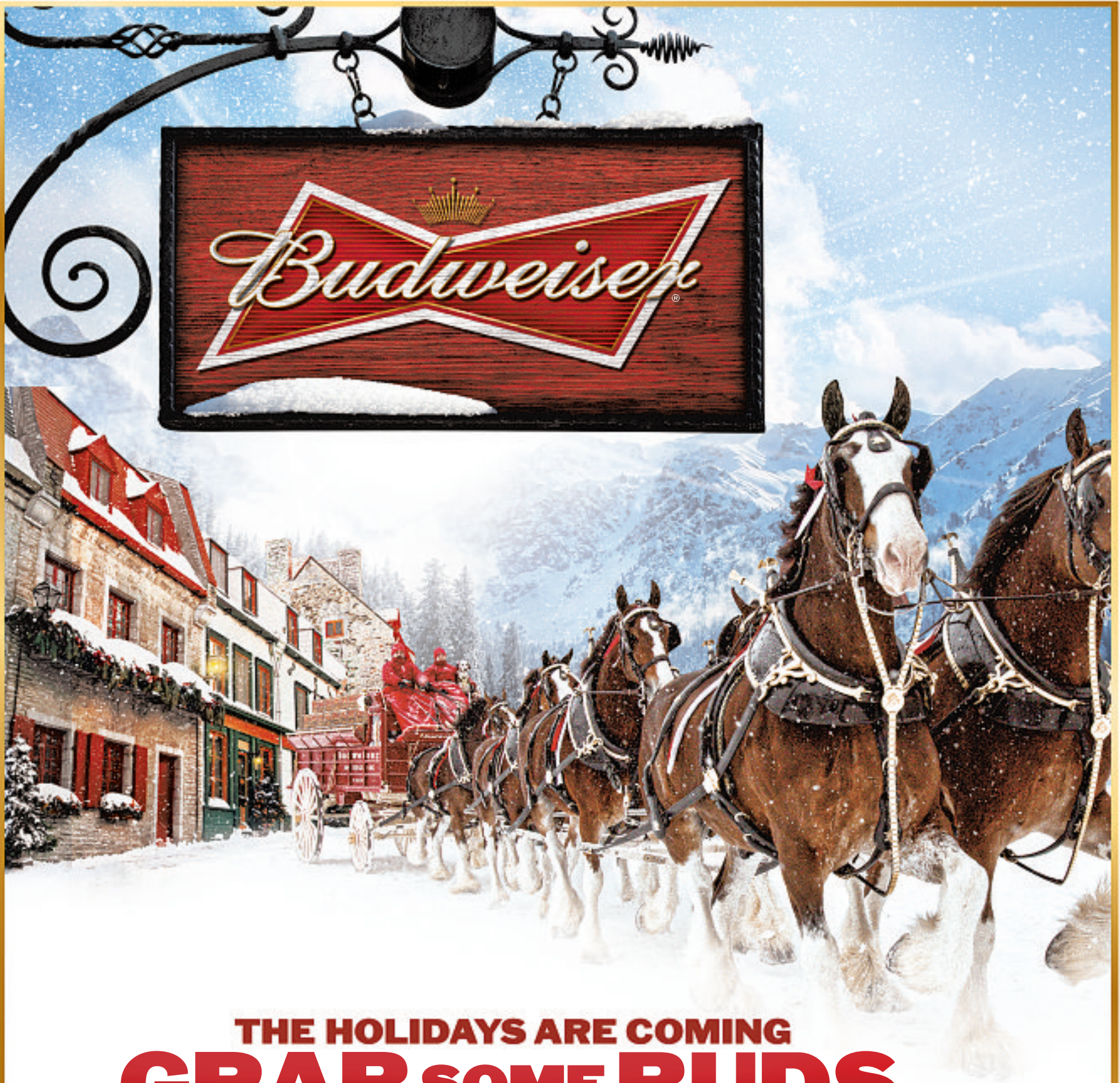
Loop bank robber on the loose

Police continued to search Thursday for a man who robbed a bank in the Loop this week and is suspected in at least three other bank robberies in the area. No one was hurt during the latest robbery Wednesday, police said.

McCormick Place battle continues

The lengthy battle for control over property slated for hotel development adjacent to McCormick Place will extend into 2013 after a federal bankruptcy judge on Thursday gave the long-time property owners more time to show their plans have financial viability.





THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING
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Happy 100th birthday, zipper and crossword

Some well-known inventions will have their 100th anniversary in 2013:

The first crossword puzzle was published Dec. 21, 1913, shortly after Arthur Wynne's editor at The New York World told him to come up with a new game for the Sunday paper.

The modern zipper will turn 100 in December 2013. After his wife died in 1911, electric engineer Gideon Sundback devoted the next two years to perfecting what was later patented as what he called the separable fastener.

Fed up with having to wear an uncomfort-

able corset under an evening dress one night in 1913, Mary Phelps Jacob improvised a lighter undergarment out of two handkerchiefs and some ribbon. The New York debutante's corset alternative would become the foundation for the modern bra.

Ecstasy, or the chemical known as MDMA, was patented in 1913. A German chemical company wanted to sell it as a diet pill but quickly abandoned those plans, the first of several false starts for the drug's medical legitimacy.



Catching air

A man sand skis in the desert near Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.
REUTERS

Gen. Schwarzkopf dead at 78

Retired Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, who commanded coalition forces during the Gulf War, died Thursday in Tampa, Fla., a U.S. official said. He was 78. After Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, Schwarzkopf directed 700,000 coalition troops that engaged in a six-week air assault of Iraqi forces in January 1991. That was followed by a swift ground campaign that pushed Saddam Hussein's forces out of Kuwait.

George H.W. Bush in 'guarded condition'

Former President George H.W. Bush was in intensive care Thursday at a Houston hospital in "guarded condition," family spokesman Jim McGrath said Wednesday.

Mac minis to be built in U.S.

Apple will produce its Mac mini computers in the U.S. next year, according to a report. Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook told NBC's Brian Williams that one of the company's computers would be produced in the U.S. next year.

Mubarak cracks ribs after fall

Former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak was ordered to a military hospital after a report conducted by doctors stated that he had fractures in three of his ribs after he slipped in a prison hospital bathroom this month.

Snow pounds Northeast

A powerful winter storm responsible for wind, snow, tornadoes and a flurry of traffic accidents battered the Northeast on Thursday, canceling hundreds of flights but also reviving what had been a snowless ski season.

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bears

GABE CARIMI

FEATURING: Star of David + stone sledge hammers

WHEN: Junior year in college

CHAIR TIME: Four sessions that each lasted four hours

What's the story behind your tattoos?

It had religious meaning, family meaning and yeah, I just really like it. It's a stone Star of David, and then crossing through it are two stone hammers. They're basically wrapped with leather on each end. I like gray styling—I'm not into color—and on each hammer, it has the Hebrew word "shleimut" and "emunah." [The former means "integrity" and the latter "faith."]

What did your rabbi say?

He was OK with it. But I'm from a reform synagogue, so there's plenty of stuff like—now you can get buried in tattoos and just remove it beforehand. So it's not that big of a deal to me.

Was that something you took into account?

It was, just because of the whole Holocaust tattoo thing. Numbers. So, a lot of bad blood with it, but I thought it was for the right reason.

For you, what was that reason?

My parents have always taught me to have a, you know, a good set of faith. And to always be honest and truthful.

What did your family think?

My mom thought, to the day of the tattoo, she was going to talk me out of it. She was like, "You're really going through with it?" ... My dad basically told her, "Look, you're lucky your son's even involving you in the process. Most kids wouldn't." It took three stencils because it's so big, and I was glad she was there because she could help align it and make sure it was symmetrical on my back.

Has the tattoo led to any conversations with teammates about the meaning?

Yeah, sometimes people ask about it. My main answer is that it's "strength" and "religion." The hammers represent strength, going through religion. Honestly, I forget about it because it's on my back. ... But I'm glad I got it, in general, and I think it looks pretty cool, and it's meaningful to me.

Their moms are so proud: Carimi and Moore share their body art deets

By Jack M Silverstein

FOR REDEYE

From Derrick Rose's Pookdini to Brian Urlacher's barbed wire to Dennis Rodman's ... entire upper body, Chicago athletes have shown a taste for tattoos. The Bears are no different, and while Urlacher's barbed wire bicep may

be the best known body art among current Bears, he is barely adorned compared with many of his teammates.

Among them are Gabe Carimi and D.J. Moore, who share a passion for images, meaning and ink. RedEye sat down with both players at their homes earlier this season and got the stories behind their tattoos.

Gabe Carimi
LENNY GILMORE/
REDEYE PHOTOS

To view videos of Jack Silverstein's chats with Gabe Carimi and D.J. Moore, visit redeyechicago.com.

TATTALES

D.J. MOORE

FEATURING: Tattoos mentioning his mother
WHEN: First tattoo, sophomore year of high school; most recent tattoo, July 2011
CHAIR TIME: At least several hours for most tattoos

What's the story behind your tattoos?

I got this "D.J." here first. I remember that because I was at the house. After I got this one I didn't want to get no more. It hurt so bad. I had some praying hands right here, but then I got the tree, a little family tree I put over it, so it's pretty much a family tree. The tattoo guy that does all my tattoos, he kind of blows everything up. You tell him a tree, and he turn it into a, you know, a whole forest. Then I got my mom's name over here, and I got it done over probably three times.

Is there going to be a kid tattoo [Moore's wife is expecting their first child in February]?

Yeah, I might get something. I want to get her name, but I know I'll get all my kids' pictures of their faces on my back. I've got everything else pretty much filled up, so I just left my back open for the kids.

You said part of the reason you wear sleeves is to protect your tattoos.

Yeah, I just don't like getting my arms scratched up. And my wife told me that, "I can always find you when you got sleeves on [on the field]."

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR JACK M. SILVERSTEIN COVERS THE BEARS FOR REDEYE. SAY HEY @ READJACK.

D.J. Moore

What'd your mom say when you came back with that?

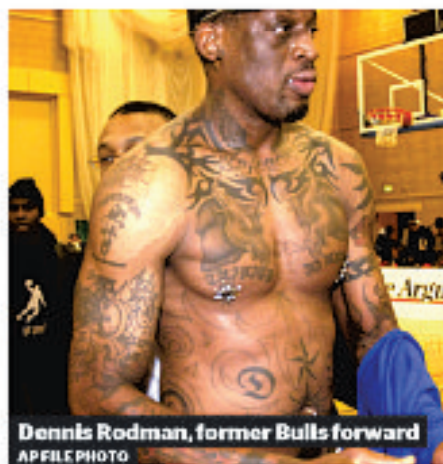
Oh, she liked it. [Starts pointing to other tattoos] You know, I got "Mama's Boy," "World's Greatest Mom." So she likes it. She always say, "Let me see my arm" or whatnot.

What's the most recent tattoo?

Most recent was [when] my brother got killed, what was that? About a year ago. So it's just him, a man walking up to heaven. ... That and my wife's name. So it's probably kind of simultaneously.

BODIES OF ART

The list of athletes known for their body art is almost as long as the Bears' Super Bowl title drought. In an effort to get your mind off that sobering fact, here are some of our favorite Chicago sports figures who aren't shy about their ink.

Dennis Rodman, former Bulls forward
AP/FILE PHOTO

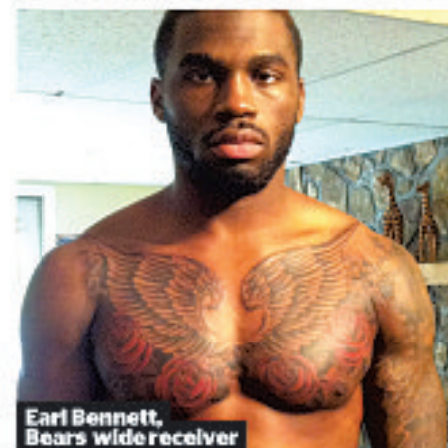
Brian Urlacher, Bears linebacker



CM Punk, WWE champion

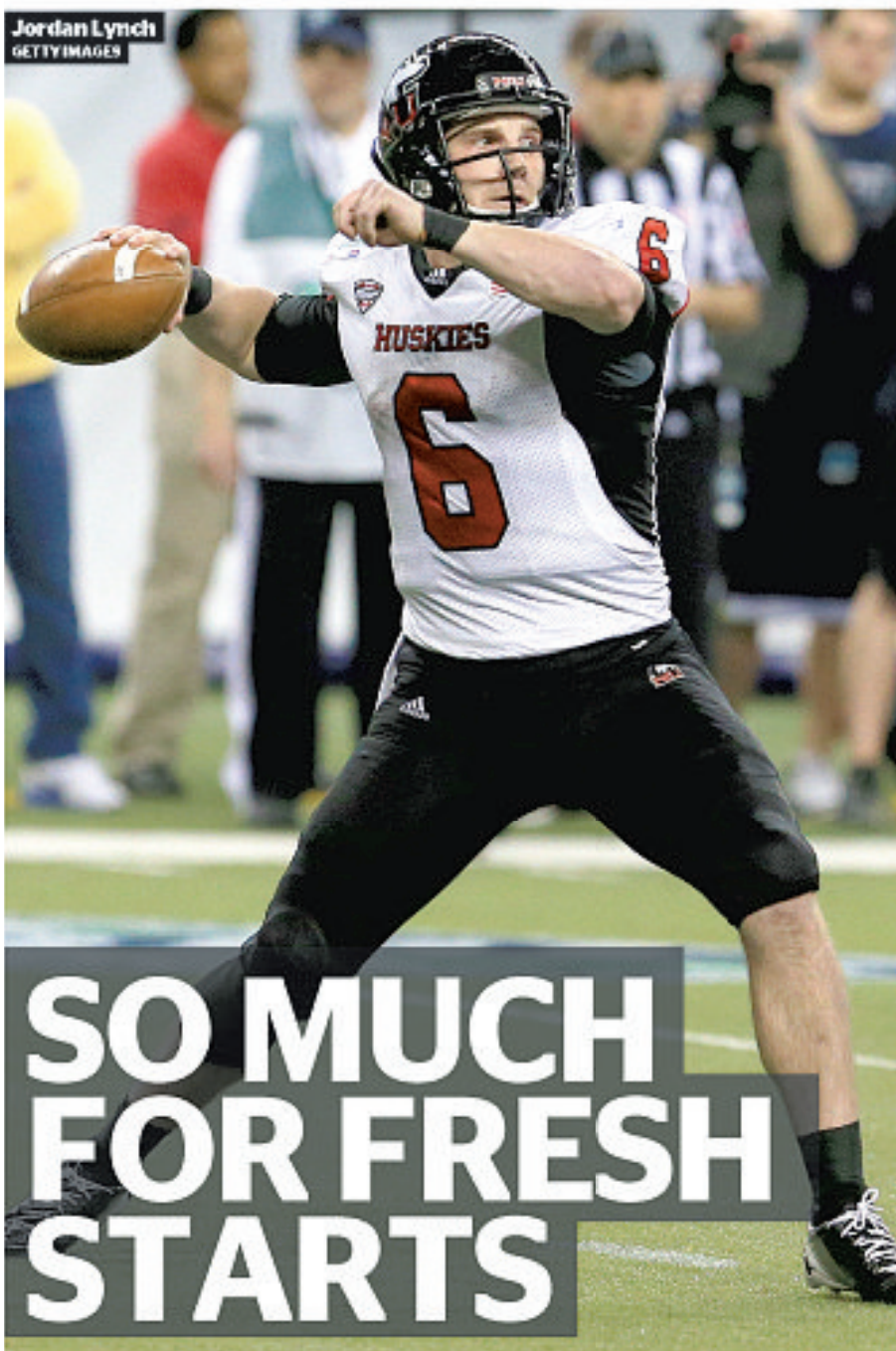
Dale Sveum, Cubs manager
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Derrick Rose, Bulls point guard



Earl Bennett, Bears wide receiver

► NY Jets' Tim Tebow "disappointed" he is being called a bad teammate

Jordan Lynch
GETTY IMAGES

SO MUCH FOR FRESH STARTS



SACKED AGAIN

Bag Boy

» redevsports
@tribune.com

Closing out 2012, not in a strong way, and headed into 2013, not in a strong way.

We find ourselves rooting for Green Bay (is there a class I can take on how to do this?) so the Bears can make the playoffs. The Bears are playing Detroit; I imagine the Lions will just hand the Bears the game at some point.

And if all goes according to plan, we earn the right to open the playoffs ... at San Francisco. Probably.

I'm going to the medicine cabinet now.

Lovie Smith is going to survive this.

I really should have known. And I also should have known: No offensive coach worth anything is ever going to come here and work for him, so forget about revamping the offense.

There goes my Christmas list. Sorry I asked.

In case you're wondering, you've got some other football on the docket for New Year's.

Your Northwestern Wildcats, who haven't won a bowl game since Truman was president, tee it up against Mississippi State. Gator Bowl! Jan. 1.

Yeah, I see that streak continuing for another administration or two. Sorry, but the Cats are playing AGAINST AN SEC TEAM. That's a loss, but enjoy lovely Jacksonville, Fla. I'm sure there's an Applebee's somewhere.

More Florida: Northern Illinois plays Florida State. Orange Bowl. Jan. 1. Miami.

Um, Huskies fans, if you're headed to Miami, I strongly recommend you don't go to the game. See South Beach, hit the clubs, see Crockett and Tubbs, but please: Don't damage your psyche. It will be over by halftime.

I could say the same for Notre Dame fans, but I'll hold off for another week.

As bad as football is, enjoy it. Because after it's over, we're left to talk about the hideous state of the Bulls (oh, it's bad). Nice to see Omer Asik have that breakout season—after he leaves the Bulls. Should have seen it coming. And the nonexistent Blackhawks (could be worse).

So the song "Auld Lang Syne" asks rhetorically, is it right that old times be forgotten?

Based on the records of Chicago sports teams? Hell yes.

BAG BOY IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

FOUR SCORE

BEARS AT DETROIT

For this week's predictions, we're joined by Carlos Nazario, Walter Brzeski, Thomas Howland and Tony Lonieri, who won Vol. 13 of our Bears Trivia Challenge. As an added twist, we let Tony show his Packers fan colors.



BEARS 27, LIONS 13

Marshall outshines Johnson. Suh tries to suplex Cutler, but Kristin steps in and kicks his jewels.

—Carlos Nazario



BEARS 31, LIONS 9

With a little help from the cheese eaters, Da Bears get primed for a playoff run!

—Thomas Howland



BEARS 33, LIONS 20

When is a Bears win and Vikings loss no gooda? When it assures Lovie Smith will be back in 2013.

—Walter Brzeski



PACKERS 31, VIKINGS 20

Packers keep their foot on the gas and secure the No. 2 seed. Adrian Peterson falls 35 yards short of the record.

—Tony Lonieri

THE 2012-13 VIRTUAL BLACKHAWKS

Because there's no real hockey being played, we're simulating the Hawks' 2012-13 season on "NHL 13." For a gallery featuring all the games, visit redevychicago.com.

—RYAN SMITH FOR REDEYE

Dec. 28: Carolina 1, Blackhawks 0

Hurricanes goalie Cam Ward stopped 34 Hawks shots to earn the shutout. It was the Hawks' second straight loss on their four-game homestand. Ray Emery, starting in place of a struggling Corey Crawford, stopped 25 shots for the Blackhawks. The only goal in the game was by Carolina's Jamie McBain in the second period.

RECORD: 20-11-3



THE MOUTHWATCH

I mean, when I was a kid, I loved wrestling. ... I think he's probably one of the creators of what we call swag these days, with the Rolexes and the stretch limos, and all the girls and all that stuff. ... Ric Flair definitely kept me watching TV."

—LeBron James, on pro wrestling legend Ric Flair, who visited the Miami Heat locker room Wednesday



THE FINISH LINE

» David Beckham considering "a number of proposals" to play next year » White Sox's Gordon Beckham confirms his engagement

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ZOOMIN'

Former Bear Jerry Azumah guest-stars on the panel. Granted, he's more needed in uniform right now, but we won't complain.



Jerry Azumah
@jerryazumah
Former all-pro Chicago Bear



Sarah Spain
@sarahspain
ESPN 1000



Jimmy Greenfield
@jgreenfield
ChicagoNow community manager



Alex Quigley
@alexquigley
720 WGN



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Brown bagged and furious

1 What will the Bears be doing come Monday morning?	Finishing final prayers to the football gods.	Showering in bleach to scrub themselves clean of a day cheering for the Packers.	Pretending they have a quarterback who can get them to the Super Bowl.	Preparing for Saturday night in Seattle.	Making plans for a trip to San Francisco, and then the offseason.
2 When Henry Melton says the Lions play "dirty," what does he mean?	You'd better wear the steel, and not plastic, cup for that game.	They've got Playboys instead of playbooks?	He means if the Bears lose, they'll have a handy excuse.	He actually meant "dirtty," meaning "like Xtina's super-slutty phase."	He means Ndamukong Suh is basically a thug, pure and simple.
3 What should the Bears' Pro Bowl selections receive?	Brand-new contracts. Duh.	A better supporting cast.	The gift of not having to play in the Pro Bowl.	2-for-1 daiquiris at the Tiki Bar all Thursday long!	The trip to Hawaii is more than enough.
4 The NIU Huskies should ____ before the Orange Bowl.	Rub Garrett Wolfe's forehead for good luck.	Steal Florida State's mascot, "Saved by the Bell"-style	Play Mad Libs.	Bet heavily on themselves. Seriously, a Husky shouldn't be a 13-point dog.	Get to know South Beach.
5 How will the White Sox replace A.J. Pierzynski?	Wouldn't mind seeing the Playmate of the Year catch some balls.	Slap a goatee on a pitbull and don't feed it for two weeks.	If there is a God, with Michael Barrett.	Tyler Flowers will start shopping at the jerk store.	By letting Tyler Flowers bloom! Sorry, that was awful.

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THE CLOCK'S TICKING

A procrastinator's guide to going out for New Year's Eve

By Samantha Nelson

FOR REDEYE

OK, slacker. It's time to talk about why you haven't made plans for New Year's Eve.

While everyone else planned ahead and bought tickets a month ago to the city's biggest bashes, you sat idly by. Maybe your friends can never agree on where to go. Or you're still feeling burned by last year's experience shelling out for an open bar and spending most of the night waiting in line instead of drinking. Or perhaps you just want a low-stress and low-cost way to ring in 2013.

Whatever it is, it's all good. Plenty of bars and restaurants are nixing the prix-fixe dinners and all-inclusive packages in favor of low-key, no-reservations gatherings. There are plenty of reasons to buck the trend.

MJ Johnston, owner of The Greenville Tavern in West Town, doesn't want to charge customers a fee he wouldn't want to pay himself. "I have a hard time going and paying \$75 or \$80," he said. "That's just a lot of money."

Logan Square restaurant Reno just opened in November and didn't feel ready for a big party. Simone's Bar in Pilsen just sticks to business as usual because that's what customers want. "We just try to keep it welcoming to neighborhood people who aren't looking for that," Simone's manager Sarah O'Connor said.

The big night may be only three days away, but you don't need to panic. The best thing about these parties is you can wait until the last minute to pick one. **SAMANTHA NELSON IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR. REDEYE@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYETCHICAGO**

Fat Cat

4840 N. Broadway 773-506-3100

When: 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

Price: No cover

Don your best fedora or flapper frock for this '20s-themed bash, with a costume contest awarding a \$100 gift card to the crowd favorite. The Uptown bar is switching out its regular menu for platters of canapes and mini-sandwiches (\$10-\$15) that you can nibble while sipping Templeton rye cocktails (\$7-\$9). The ceiling will be covered with black, white and silver balloons to add to the festive vibe.

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS



Big Star

1531 N. Damen Ave. 773-235-4039

When: 11:30 a.m.-2 a.m.

Price: No cover

This laid-back Wicker Park whiskey and taco bar has always been a great destination for lovers of brews from Indiana's Three Floyds, but for New Year's Eve, the brewery is staging a tap takeover, serving up classics such as **Gumballhead** in addition to more unusual options like barrel-aged Black Sun stout. If you need a break from brews, look for cocktail and shot specials to be revealed that night.

Delilah's

2771 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-472-2771

When: 8 p.m.-2 a.m.

Price: \$20

Mondays are punk rock nights at this Lincoln Park bar, and management isn't changing the plan even if it is New Year's Eve. Expect a mix of serious music fans and college kids coming out for the Iron City beer, Jim Beam cocktails and pool, all included in admission.

Half Acre Tap Room

4257 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-248-4038

When: Noon to 1 a.m.

Price: A nonperishable food item to donate
This Lincoln Square brewery is kicking off a food drive for the Greater Chicago Food Depository and awarding your generosity with free appetizers, which they're bringing in starting around 9 p.m. "We thought instead of ending a food drive after the holidays, why not start one?" cultural coordinator Eric Kapraun said.

The brewery is also celebrating its favorite beers of the year, offering you one last chance to enjoy some summer and fall brews. Miller High Life may call itself the champagne of beers, but Half Acre is opting to serve up Daisy Cutter treated with champagne yeast as a mid-night toast, included for all those making a donation.

Maria's Packaged Goods & Community Bar

960 W. 31st St. 773-890-0588

When: 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

Price: No cover

Inspired by fear of the fiscal cliff, this Bridgeport bar's New Years Eve of Destruction bash is meant to protect your wallet no matter your tax bracket. Score \$1 off draft beers plus party favors, a midnight champagne toast and plenty of beats from DJ B-Side.

Reno

2607 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-697-4234

When: 5 p.m.-1 a.m.

Price: No cover

This casual Italian eatery in Logan Square is staying open late to offer its regular menu of pizza and pasta (\$9-\$14) with whiskey and craft brews, plus a complimentary sparkling wine toast at midnight.

Simone's Bar

960 W. 18th St. 312-666-8601

When: 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Price: No cover

At this Pilsen hangout, glasses of champagne are just \$3, so you don't need to wait until midnight to start downing bubbly. DJ Presto spins hip-hop, house and dance for what is expected to be a big crowd of dedicated regulars.

The Greenville Tavern

2210 W. Chicago Ave. 773-276-1411

When: 7:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

Price: \$25

If you have some suburban friends who want to make the trip to join your party, do them a favor with an invitation to join you at this recently opened bar. They can arrive in style by calling the bar to catch a ride from a limo making trips back and forth to Union and Ogilvie train stations and the bar all night. "New Year's is always a pain in the butt to get a cab and we want to make sure everyone gets where they're going," owner MJ Johnston said. Jam band Mr. Blotto performs and party favors and a champagne toast are included.



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LENNY GILMORE/
REDEYE FILE PHOTOS

RM Champagne Salon 116 N. Green St. 312-243-1199

Feeling chilly? Request a table near the fireplace at this West Loop lounge and you'll be feeling cozy in no time.



The Boarding House

720 N. Wells St. 312-280-0720

"Check Please!" host and sommelier extraordinaire **Alpana Singh's** wine bar and restaurant is pouring in River North. Keep an eye out for another friendly face: Former Best Bartender finalist Tony Potempa works as bar chef here.

Gilt Bar 230 W. Kinzie St. 312-464-9544

Make a reservation at this River North restaurant while you can—in 2013, it's changing its policy and going no-reservations.

Grace 652 W. Randolph St. 312-234-9494

Former Avenues chef Curtis Duffy is cooking elaborate tasting menus at a West Loop restaurant he and his team built from scratch.

Little Goat Diner

820 W. Randolph St. 312-888-3455

Girl & The Goat's Stephanie Izard on Friday debuts her take on a diner and bakery serving up decadent plates like pork belly pancakes and "Fat Elvis" waffles with banana and peanut butter.



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movies



1. The Master

So gigantic it warrants a week-long seminar, Paul Thomas Anderson's hypnotic, original "The Master" is an inkblot test in itself. Remarkable performances from Joaquin Phoenix, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams create layered characters who are linked and prodded by their own vulnerability. Anderson suggests concrete notions of human nature while asserting an infinite search for, and the potential elusiveness of, the self. Fittingly, each elliptical moment of "The Master" flickers in the shadows, planting seeds in your mind, waiting to be processed.

2. The Queen of Versailles

This documentary about

David Siegel, a mega-rich timeshare mogul whose wealth crumbles in 2008's financial collapse, and his wife, Jackie, who looks like a trophy wife but stands by her husband, stacks ironies taller than the 90,000-square-foot house the couple tries to build. The way they must confront their over-extended sense of luxury is both a tragic indictment of the American dream of excess and a brilliant reality check—for them and for us.

3. This is 40

Judd Apatow's best movie is both very funny and very perceptive when it comes to getting older individually and as a couple—with some of the strongest jokes used to underscore the tension, not dissolve it. "This is 40" is upsetting and

comforting, a deceptively mature comedy in which happiness is never easy to come by and hard work usually, but not always, pays off.

4. Damsels in Distress

Whit Stillman's "Damsels in Distress," his first movie in 14 years and his best yet, turns the follies and misguided perceptions of youth into a hilariously bent social comedy of developing identity. Some guys don't know colors; some girls prefer doofuses (or doofi, the plural, Stillman indicates). Throughout, the impeccable cast, particularly Greta Gerwig and Carrie MacLemore, convincingly emphasizes the power of a dance craze and twisted theories that, from the right angle, look almost like knowledge.

5. Not Fade Away

(opening Friday)

Can a coming-of-age movie still feel original? Can a film about music and starting a band ever deserve to be in the same time zone as a recent classic like "Almost Famous"? With his feature writing-directing debut, David Chase ("The Sopranos") offers a resounding "yes" with a drama in which the feeling of youth, inspiration and changing by the minute practically leaps off the screen.

6. Looper

The time-travel element only exists to serve a creative, accessible story about the power to change fate and the need to be loved. It's a movie that lets the mind and heart play together.



7. Magic Mike

The year's best bait-and-switch, the richly entertaining "Magic Mike" arrived with ads suggesting ridiculous fluff and delivered, surely to the disappointment of some, a sobering look at how it feels to consider turning a deliberately month-to-month gig into a career.

8. Beasts of the Southern Wild

An unforgettable debut performance from then-6-year-old Quvenzhané Wallis anchors this remarkable story, which sometimes feels like a dream and other times like it naturally materialized on its own. It's about the importance of parenting, the significance of home and the universal fight to survive, one heartbeat at a time.

9. Zero Dark Thirty

(opening Jan. 4)

A reminder that 160 minutes flies by when watching something deserving of your attention, Kathryn Bigelow's riveting procedural about one CIA agent's (Jessica Chastain) decade-long hunt for Osama bin Laden crackles with the mystery and urgency of real life. Days after seeing the movie, you'll still be thinking about it.

10. Moonrise Kingdom

With 2007's "Darjeeling Limited," Wes Anderson suggested he was out of tricks. He's not. "Moonrise Kingdom," Anderson's latest and his best live-action work since "Rushmore," is a work of art you don't just want to watch but hang on your wall and read to your kids. If you have them.



BEST



BEST & WORST MOVIES OF 2012



FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

» mpais
@tribune.com
» @mattpais

2012 was filled with great films worth watching and re-watching, as well as movies so bad they should be smashed into a million pieces and flung into space. (Safely, of course.) Read on for the 10 best and 10 worst

flicks of 2012, and go to redeyechicago.com for the rest of our top and bottom 20.



1. Life Happens

A movie you probably didn't know existed and should separate yourself from like your tongue's relationship with CTA handrails, "Life Happens" earns the double whammy of the year's worst title and worst movie. Co-written by star Krysten Ritter ("Don't Trust the B---- in Apt. 23"), "Life Happens" includes some of 2012's most selfish, unappealing characters, a smug irritation with kids for, like, needing someone to take care of them, and a relationship that should have both halves of the couple running in the opposite direction. There's not an honest bone in "Life Happens," which only defends its use of the term "douche-nozzle" because the film is such an excruciating douche-nozzle.

2. Rock of Ages

About as authentically rock 'n' roll as "The Magic of Belle Isle" (see No. 10), "Rock of Ages" bastardizes its subject matter into the karaoke version of a "Glee" cover of a song that at one point represented sweat and sex and becomes birthday cake in translation. "Rock of

Ages" comes closer to "Kidz Bop" than "Behind the Music."

3. The Collection

Some people praised "The Collection" for its absence of idiotic moralizing, a la "Saw." As if that defends torture porn that exists for no other reason than gruesomely disposing of characters in the most nonsensical, desensitizing methods possible—aside from, uh, when the hero shoots a homeless person as a means of attracting attention.

4. The Apparition

I had a very good time watching "The Apparition," which thankfully only runs 74 minutes. Horror doesn't get much more incompetent, from unnecessary footage (yes, please show me every sip of that beer!) to lead actors (Ashley Greene, Sebastian Stan) who probably should have introduced themselves before seemingly starring opposite someone they had never met.

5. Alex Cross

Whatever you think of Tyler Perry, what's not up for debate

is the actor's inability to appear tough in the misogynistic, seemingly unfinished "Alex Cross." Thanks to Perry, detective Dr. Alex Cross becomes a guy who's either in desperate need of a nap, a cop who probably did nap through the academy or a rage-filled revenge-seeker who never considers the moral dimensions of anything.

6. Rise of the Guardians

It's never cool when it seems like a movie tries to manipulate its young audience, and "Rise of the Guardians" couldn't be more hollow and false in its collection of characters—Jack Frost, Santa and Tooth Fairy represent quite different constituencies, no?—and disinterest in anyone who doesn't believe. Meanwhile, the film advocates for those who do believe simply because, hey, believing in things is great!

7. A Little Bit of Heaven

It should have been easy for execs to turn down a romantic comedy about cancer... named after a gigolo. Kate Hudson starring doesn't help,

but material like "A Little Bit of Heaven" is beyond redemption no matter who's on the poster.

8. Chernobyl Diaries

Common sense would suggest that no one would use a real-life nuclear disaster as a setting for a horror flick. In a brainless movie like "Chernobyl Diaries," common sense does not exist.

9. The Odd Life of Timothy Green

This insulting, disingenuous adoption story is a phony fantasy that gets totally creepy when 10-year-old Timothy (CJ Adams) sketches his mom's boss (Dianne Wiest). Really, though, the movie is one uncomfortably misguided moment after another.

10. The Magic of Belle Isle

Theoretically wholesome and actually shameless, "The Magic of Belle Isle" exploits heavy problems like divorce and alcoholism for the purpose of an anonymously twinkly small-town story whose understanding of human interaction goes no farther than clichés.



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movies



'Not Fade Away'

A worthy backup to 'Almost Famous'



FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

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» @mattpais

For a hypothetical, four-band concert comprised of the best music-related movies of the past 20 years (documentaries not included), "Almost Famous" would obviously headline. "Crazy Heart" performs second. Tom Hanks' "That Thing You Do" goes on first. What's slotted third? "Sopranos"

creator David Chase's personal, deeply felt feature writing-directing debut "Not Fade Away," which makes Hanks' immensely entertaining comedy look goofy and shallow. Like "TTYD," "Fade" focuses on a band trying to make it in 1964 and a drummer who's not the group's first choice. The timekeeper replaced in "Not Fade Away" joins the Marines, leaving an empty seat for Doug (John Magaro of "Liberal Arts"). Doug's never been much of a drummer, nor an athlete—two limitations he blames for his inactivity in the female department.

Among many other triumphs, "Not Fade Away" captures Doug's life clicking into focus after high school, even as some people—and, at times, Doug himself—struggle to see themselves and others as anything other than the way they were back then. Now Doug embraces a chance to take over singing duties, muttering, "I can sing that song better than you," despite knowing his friend, the band's singer (Jack Huston), won't be happy about it.

Doug's confidence, and his soulful voice



Not Fade Away
R

and stage presence, also attracts his former classmate Grace (Bella Heathcote of "Dark Shadows"), who Chase resists writing as some thinly drawn hottie for the hero to ogle, win and ultimately dismiss. Grace and all of the movie's main characters have fully drawn personalities and vivid relationships, including the resentments and jealousies that can crop up when friends become colleagues and a hobby becomes a business.

Underneath the dedication and struggle of Doug's band lingers the escalating popularity of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, captured in a clip from Dean Martin's show as he rolls his eyes at the latter's performance. So much in life, and especially in the entertainment business, doesn't seem worth taking seriously until it is. Of course, Chase bakes plenty of serious moments into "Not Fade Away," including President Kennedy's assassination, the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and a health scare for Doug's father (James Gandolfini). They're all used as backdrops in a movie that beautifully, sometimes heartbreakingly documents people living in the moment, doing what feels right at the time.

More than the solid Beatles tale "Nowhere Boy," "Not Fade Away" re-creates a period and feelings of music running through your blood, of egos and opportunities, of transparent crushes and the gradual acquisition of knowledge. You'll be overcome with satisfaction and nostalgia, whether or not you lived through it the first time.

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*No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. Once 150 admit-one passes have been redeemed, this giveaway will be closed. Screening will be held on Thursday, January 3 at a downtown Chicago theater. Employees of RedEye, Columbia Pictures and their immediate families are not eligible. Please refer to screening passes for all other restrictions. The film has been rated "R" by the MPAA for strong violence including brutal disturbing images, and for language.

MOTION PICTURE DIRECTORY

Handicapped Access Digital Sound Dolby Stereo No Passes Hearing-Impaired
G - General audience PG - Parental guidance suggested
R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian
PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13

600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)
600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily
■ The Guilt Trip (PG-13) 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:00, 10:40
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) 2:20, 9:50
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 10:40, 6:10
■ Django Unchained (R) ★ 11:00, 2:40, 6:20, 9:20, 10:00
■ Jack Reacher (PG-13) ★ 10:25, 1:25, 4:30, 7:40, 10:45
■ Les Misérables (PG-13) ★ 11:10, 2:50, 6:30, 7:30, 10:10
■ Argo (R) 10:50, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50
■ Parental Guidance (PG) ★ 10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:50
■ Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (PG) ★ 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 10:50
■ This Is 40 (R) ★ 10:10, 1:15, 4:20, 7:25, 10:30

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)
2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949
■ Rust and Bone (R) 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10
■ The Impossible (PG-13) 11:10, 1:30, 2:00, 4:35, 6:30, 7:20, 9:55
■ Hitchcock (PG-13) 11:05, 4:10, 9:10
■ Hyde Park on Hudson (R) 11:10, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
■ Anna Karenina (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
■ Lincoln (PG-13) 11:30, 12:45, 2:45, 4:00, 6:15, 7:30, 9:30
■ EIT (PG) 12:00

CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)
2600 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642
■ Django Unchained (R) ★ (Closed caption) 12:00, 1:30, 3:40, 5:10, 7:20, 9:00, 11:00
■ Les Misérables (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:30, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30
■ Parental Guidance (PG) 11:50, 2:20, 5:00, 7:35, 10:20
■ This Is 40 (R) 10:40, 11:20, 1:40, 2:30, 4:40, 5:30, 7:45, 8:30, 10:45, 11:30
■ Jack Reacher (PG-13) ★ 10:50, 1:25, 2:05, 4:30, 5:05, 7:30, 8:05, 10:35, 11:05
■ Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) ★ 11:10, 4:15, 7:10, 9:40
■ Monsters, Inc. (G) 1:50
■ The Guilt Trip (PG-13) ★ 10:55, 1:20, 4:00, 6:55, 9:20
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) ★ 5:45, 9:30
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) ★ 11:00, 3:00, 7:05, 10:55
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 11:45, 3:45, 7:40, 11:20
■ Rise of the Guardians (PG) 10:30, 12:55, 3:20
■ Life of Pi 3D (PG) ★ 2:15, 9:25
■ The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13) 10:35
■ Skyfall (PG-13) 11:05, 5:15, 11:25
■ Wreck-It Ralph (PG) 10:45

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)
4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893
■ Django Unchained (R) 12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 9:50
■ Les Misérables (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:10
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00
■ Lincoln (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)
S. Cicero at 76th., Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily
■ Life of Pi (PG) 12:25
■ Skyfall (PG-13) 12:30
■ Rise of the Guardians (PG) 11:30, 7:05
■ The Guilt Trip (PG-13) ★ 11:15, 1:35, 4:05, 6:35, 9:05
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) 12:30, 4:30, 8:15
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 11:40, 3:40, 7:15
■ Wreck-It Ralph (PG) 12:00, 4:25
■ Django Unchained (R) ★ 12:15, 1:00, 4:15, 4:45, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30
■ Jack Reacher (PG-13) ★ 11:45, 12:45, 3:00, 4:00, 6:15, 7:00, 9:25, 10:00
■ Les Misérables (PG-13) ★ 11:50, 3:45, 7:30
■ Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) ★ 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:20
■ Parental Guidance (PG) ★ 11:10, 1:30, 4:05, 6:30, 9:10
■ This Is 40 (R) ★ 12:40, 4:00, 6:55, 9:55
■ Lincoln (PG-13) 11:25, 2:50, 6:25, 9:40
■ The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13) 12:00, 4:00, 6:40, 9:35

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER
164 State Street
(312) 846-2800
■ A Late Quartet (R) 6:00
■ Nothing but a Man (NR) 6:00
■ Searching for Sugar Man (PG-13) 8:00
■ The Paperboy (R) 8:00

LOGAN THEATRE
2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628
■ Dead Snow (NR) 11:30
■ Jeremiah Johnson (PG) 11:00
■ Hitchcock (PG-13) 4:30, 8:30
■ Wreck-It Ralph (PG) 12:20, 2:30, 6:30
■ Argo (R) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
■ Rise of the Guardians (PG) 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00
■ Skyfall (PG-13) 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:00

MUSIC BOX
3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604
■ Lawrence of Arabia (PG) 2:00, 7:00
■ The Big Picture (NR) 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
■ Get Crazy (R) 12:00
■ Jackie Brown (R) 12:00

THE PATIO THEATRE
6008 W. Irving Park Road
(773) 685-4291

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)
322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily
■ AMC Independent Not Fade Away (R) ★ 11:20, 2:25, 5:35, 8:30, 11:35
■ Life of Pi (PG) 12:50
■ Skyfall (PG-13) 1:20
■ Rise of the Guardians (PG) 10:00, 3:40
■ The Guilt Trip (PG-13) ★ 11:25, 2:15, 5:05, 7:50, 10:40
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) 3:30
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 11:30, 7:30, 11:30
■ Wreck-It Ralph (PG) 12:45
■ Django Unchained (R) ★ (Closed caption) 11:15, 1:10, 3:15, 5:00, 7:15, 8:45, 11:15
■ Jack Reacher (PG-13) ★ 11:35, 1:00, 4:20, 6:15, 7:45, 9:30, 11:30
■ Les Misérables (PG-13) ★ 11:10, 12:20, 2:55, 4:15, 6:45, 8:15, 10:35, 11:45
■ Flight (R) 2:50
■ Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) ★ 10:05, 12:40, 3:35, 6:10, 8:55, 11:35
■ Parental Guidance (PG) ★ 10:15, 12:55, 3:45, 6:35, 9:20
■ Silver Linings Playbook (R) 10:05, 1:05, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
■ AMC Independent Hyde Park on Hudson (R) 10:00, 12:35, 3:10, 5:55, 8:40, 11:25
■ This Is 40 (R) ★ 10:00, 11:50, 3:00, 4:40, 6:30, 8:00, 9:50, 11:20
■ Lincoln (PG-13) 11:40, 3:25, 7:00, 10:45
■ Promised Land (R) ★ 11:20, 2:25, 5:20, 8:10, 11:05
■ AMC Independent Hitchcock (PG-13) 12:00, 9:00
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) 1:15, 5:15, 9:10
■ AMC Independent Dabangg 2 (NR) ★ 11:50, 3:30, 7:10, 10:50
■ Life of Pi 3D (PG) 10:40, 5:10, 8:20, 11:40

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)
7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #2309
■ Life of Pi (PG) 10:30
■ Skyfall (PG-13) 12:30, 9:45
■ Rise of the Guardians (PG) 10:05, 10:40, 1:20, 4:00
■ The Guilt Trip (PG-13) ★ 10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:35, 8:00
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 10:15, 2:00, 5:45, 9:30
■ Wreck-It Ralph (PG) 10:30, 1:15
■ Django Unchained (R) ★ 11:00, 12:30, 2:45, 4:05, 6:20, 7:40, 8:30, 10:15, 10:55
■ Jack Reacher (PG-13) ★ 10:20, 1:30, 4:40, 6:45, 7:50, 9:50, 10:50
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey -- An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) 11:30, 3:15, 7:00, 10:45
■ Les Misérables (PG-13) ★ 10:30, 11:45, 1:00, 2:15, 3:30, 4:45, 6:00, 7:15, 8:00, 9:00, 9:45, 11:00
■ Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) ★ 10:05, 12:35, 3:05, 5:30
■ Parental Guidance (PG) ★ 10:00, 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 6:50, 9:40
■ Silver Linings Playbook (R) 10:00, 12:50, 3:40, 6:35, 9:30
■ Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (PG) ★ 10:45, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15
■ This Is 40 (R) ★ 10:10, 1:20, 4:30, 7:45, 11:15
■ Lincoln (PG-13) 12:20, 3:45, 7:10, 10:40
■ AMC Independent Hitchcock (PG-13) 12:40
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) 12:45, 4:30, 8:15
■ Life of Pi 3D (PG) 10:05

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)
1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641
■ Django Unchained (R) 11:00, 12:10, 2:40, 3:40, 7:10, 9:40, 10:50
■ Les Misérables (PG-13) 10:40, 11:30, 2:20, 3:20, 6:20, 7:00, 10:00, 10:40
■ Jack Reacher (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 10:10
■ This Is 40 (R) 12:20, 1:30, 3:30, 6:40, 7:30, 9:50, 10:30
■ The Guilt Trip (PG-13) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 8:00, 10:20
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) 10:30, 2:10, 6:10, 9:45
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 12:40, 7:05
■ Life of Pi 3D (PG) 10:35, 4:30, 6:50
■ Silver Linings Playbook (R) 10:50, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:25
■ Argo (R) 4:20, 10:45

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)
E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1646
■ Life of Pi (PG) 1:30
■ Skyfall (PG-13) 12:00, 10:25
■ Rise of the Guardians (PG) 10:30, 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:00
■ The Guilt Trip (PG-13) ★ 11:45, 2:25, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) 10:45, 2:30, 6:15, 10:00
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 12:15, 4:00, 7:45
■ Wreck-It Ralph (PG) 10:35, 1:25, 4:15
■ Django Unchained (R) ★ 10:00, 11:00, 1:45, 2:45, 5:25, 6:45, 9:10, 10:10
■ Jack Reacher (PG-13) ★ 10:00, 12:00, 1:00, 3:10, 4:10, 6:20, 7:20, 9:30, 10:30
■ Les Misérables (PG-13) ★ 11:20, 3:00, 6:40, 10:15
■ Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) ★ 11:00, 1:35, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
■ Parental Guidance (PG) ★ 11:40, 2:20, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20
■ This Is 40 (R) ★ 10:10, 1:20, 4:30, 7:40, 10:45
■ The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13) 10:40, 4:25, 7:15, 10:00

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)
4779 W. Cermak, Cicero
(800) 326-3264 #1644
■ Skyfall (PG-13) 12:40
■ Rise of the Guardians (PG) 11:15, 2:00, 4:40
■ The Guilt Trip (PG-13) ★ 10:05, 12:25, 2:45, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) 1:00, 4:45, 8:30
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 11:15, 3:00, 7:00, 10:50
■ Wreck-It Ralph (PG) 10:30
■ Django Unchained (R) 11:10, 12:05, 1:15, 3:00, 3:45, 5:00, 6:50, 7:30, 9:15, 10:30, 11:15
■ Jack Reacher (PG-13) ★ 10:00, 10:40, 1:10, 4:15, 4:50, 7:20, 8:00, 10:30, 11:10
■ Les Misérables (PG-13) ★ 11:45, 3:15, 6:45, 10:15
■ Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) ★ 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45
■ Parental Guidance (PG) ★ 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
■ Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (PG) ★ 11:20, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40
■ This Is 40 (R) ★ 10:00, 1:10, 4:20, 7:40, 11:00
■ AMC Independent Made in Mexico (NR) 12:35, 11:00
■ Life of Pi 3D (PG) 10:05
■ The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG-13) 10:40, 4:25, 7:20, 10:20

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION
Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago
(312) 564-2104
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) ✓ 10:40, 2:40, 6:30, 10:10
■ Life of Pi 3D (PG) 11:50, 2:50, 6:15, 9:30
■ Rise of the Guardians 3D (PG) 11:40
■ This Is 40 (R) ★ (Closed caption) 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:30
■ Skyfall (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:10, 1:15, 4:30, 7:40, 10:50
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 11:15, 3:20, 7:00, 10:45
■ The Guilt Trip (PG-13) ★ 11:10, 2:10, 4:50, 7:45, 10:15
■ Django Unchained (R) ★ 11:45, 2:30, 3:40, 6:10, 7:30, 9:45, 11:00
■ Jack Reacher (PG-13) ★ 10:20, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:40
■ Les Misérables (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:20, 3:10, 6:50, 10:20
■ Les Misérables (PG-13) ★ 10:30, 2:20, 6:00, 9:40
■ Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) ★ 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20
■ Parental Guidance (PG) ★ 10:45, 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 10:00
■ Silver Linings Playbook (R) 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 7:50, 10:55
■ Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (PG) ★ 10:05, 12:50, 3:50, 6:40, 9:10
■ Lincoln (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:30, 3:00, 6:20, 9:50
■ VIP Premium 21+
■ Django Unchained (R) ★ VIP Premium 21+ 11:45, 3:40, 7:30, 11:00
■ Les Misérables (PG-13) ★ VIP Premium 21+ 10:30, 2:20, 6:00, 9:40

**OAK PARK
LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)**
1022 Lake Street, Oak Park
(630) 444-FILM #560
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 11:45, 3:10, 6:35, 10:00
■ Django Unchained (R) ★ 12:00, 3:25, 6:50, 10:10
■ Jack Reacher (PG-13) ★ 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
■ Les Misérables (PG-13) ★ 12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45
■ Parental Guidance (PG) ★ 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
■ This Is 40 (R) ★ 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05
■ Lincoln (PG-13) 1:00, 4:55, 8:00

**EVANSTON
CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)**
1715 Maple Ave., Evanston
(847) 492-0123
■ Argo (R) 11:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
■ Lincoln (PG-13) 12:25, 3:45, 7:05, 10:30
■ Hyde Park on Hudson (R) 11:05, 1:25, 6:50, 9:15
■ Skyfall (PG-13) 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
■ Life of Pi 3D (PG) (Closed caption) 1:45, 7:35, 10:40
■ Rise of the Guardians (PG) 11:20, 2:05, 5:05, 7:35, 10:45
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 11:20, 2:05, 5:05, 7:35, 10:45
■ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:55, 2:30, 6:05, 9:45
■ The Impossible (PG-13) 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:55, 9:35
■ Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
■ Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) (Closed caption) 2:10, 4:30, 7:10
■ Les Misérables (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:55, 2:25, 5:55, 9:25
■ Les Misérables (PG-13) 12:20, 3:40, 7:00, 10:20
■ The Guilt Trip (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 10:00
■ This Is 40 (R) 1:35, 4:35, 7:45, 10:50
■ Jack Reacher (PG-13) 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
■ Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (PG) 11:20, 2:05, 5:05, 7:35, 10:45
■ Django Unchained (R) 11:25, 3:05, 6:45, 10:25
■ Parental Guidance (PG) 11:30, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 9:55
■ Promised Land (R) 11:10, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05



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movies



James Gandolfini (left) in 'Not Fade Away'

Gandolfini shakes off Sopranos shadows for 'Not Fade Away'

Los Angeles Times

It's hard to separate James Gandolfini from his iconic mobster role in "The Sopranos," one of the most memorable characters in TV history. So when he opens the heavy black door at the Roxy in L.A., you can't help but flash back to Tony Soprano letting Pauly into the back of the Bada Bing nightclub.

Yet that was a time long ago, and though Gandolfini is back with the show's creator, David Chase, he is here to talk about a character that is as different from Tony as the Roxy is from Disneyland. In Chase's film "Not Fade Away," a movie about the pursuit and abandonment of childhood dreams which opens Friday, Gandolfini plays Pat, a father, husband and WWII vet who provides a secure home life to an ungrateful

wife, son and daughter.

Gandolfini's character wrestles with his son's rebellious '60s demeanor—from his long hair and heeled boots to his pursuit of a career as a musician. It's a character he knows well.

"This was an homage to my old man," Gandolfini said.

"My father wasn't as antagonistic [as his character] but he was old school—Brooklyn, cement mason, bricklayer. He didn't understand me or my generation. He took care of his family, took care of his children," he said. "What we as children didn't realize is our father was a man who had dreams, aspirations and maybe there were things he wanted to do and places he wanted to go and he couldn't because he had a family. When I realized that as a kid, I wished I was a better son."



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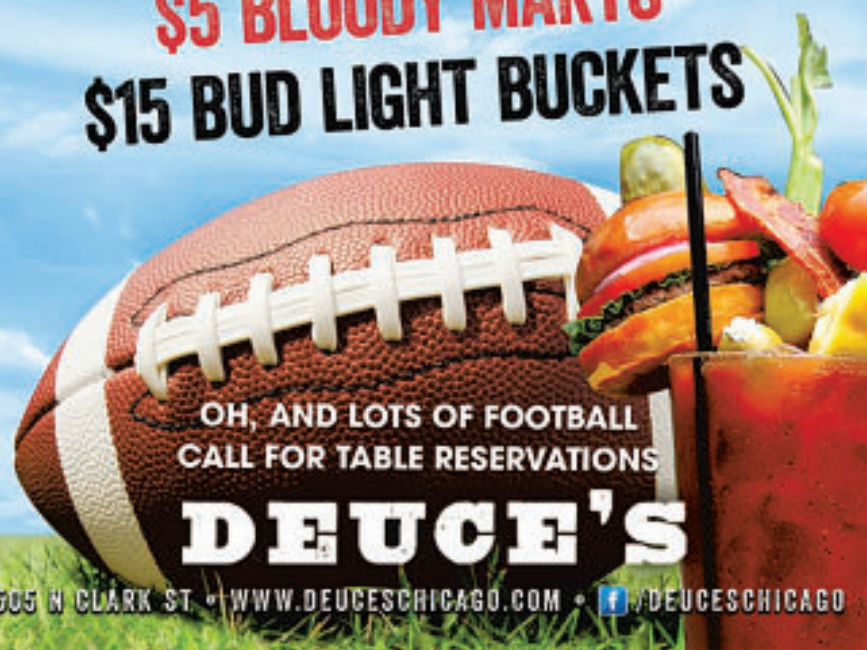
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Oh, commerce and integrity. Can't you two ever get along?

Five years after Daniel Day-Lewis, his mustache and his oil derricks wreaked havoc in early 20th

century California, star/co-writer Matt Damon and "Promised Land" arrive to see if small-town Pennsylvanians will sell their souls for natural gas. Well, that's not how Steve Butler's (Damon) sales pitch goes. He and Sue (Frances McDormand) are experts at going into struggling communities and emphasizing the economic boom that will follow his company's fracking. If you're giggling, you should probably look up what that means.

Folks seem agreeable in McKinley, Penn., until a science teacher (Hal Holbrook) with a Ph.D. in physics from Cornell argues that the situation isn't as simple as it seems, and that the locals should vote after learning more about supposed financial and health risks. When environmental advocate Dustin

Promised Land
R

Noble (co-writer John Krasinski) arrives with photos of dead cows and a story about how natural gas shut down his father's farm, Steve looks ready to bust a gasket of his own.

Fifteen years after "Good Will Hunting" and 10 after "Gerry," Damon re-teams with director Gus Van Sant. Neither has lost his ability to hold attention. Damon is one of Hollywood's most naturally likable presences, even when losing his cool, and he brings charm to the flirtation between Steve and local gal Alice (Rosemarie DeWitt)—though her character is oversimplified, especially when she also bats an eye at Dustin. I know she's the prettiest single woman in town, and the love triangle doesn't turn into "The Departed" or anything, but it's a distraction from the central issue.

Speaking of which, "Promised Land" generates plenty of conflict and conflicted people as they consider whether they sup-



Matt Damon stars in 'Promised Land'

port bringing natural gas to a dilapidated town. But it rarely elevates the debates above the theoretical.

Nobody learns details about the real risks involved or takes the situation further than the broad issue of, "Is it worth possible disaster and the loss of my family farm to save our economy?" The collision between values and

the bottom line gets stickier with people in need, but "Promised Land" smoothes over current conditions and what could happen whether they sign off on Steve's company or not.

It's a movie that feels either too long or too short—a fable that fails to grow into a statement.

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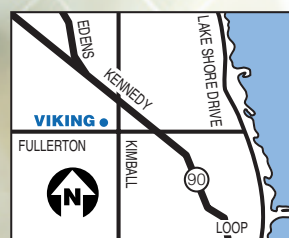


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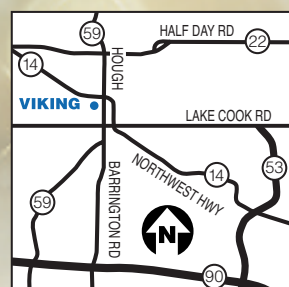
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movies



Hugh Jackman
stars in 'Les Misérables'

Hugh Jackman lands dream role in 'Les Miz'

Reuters

Australian actor Hugh Jackman says his background in musical theater and action films made him feel "like all the stars were aligning" when he took on the starring role of Jean Valjean in the new movie version of "Les Misérables," which opened on Christmas. Jackman, 44, perhaps best known for his portrayal of Wolverine in the "X-Men" movie franchise, spoke about the demands of the role in British director Tom Hooper's adaptation of the musical sensation that opened when Jackman was still a teenager.

This role seemed tailor-made for you.

It certainly for me felt like the biggest challenge I have had. I have never been on the front foot so much for a part. I was quite aggressive going for it. It felt like the right time. Once I got the part, I will admit to you there were times when I went, "Oh maybe I have bit off more than I can chew here," because it is a pretty daunting role in every way—physically, vocally, emotionally.

Has all your Broadway experience and movies led you to this role?

I never expected this trajectory of having movies, action movies, which was such a weird thing for me, and musicals, which was also a weird thing for me. I was a theater graduate ... So I have for a long time wanted

to put the two together. And I waited for the right thing—and when this one came up I was like, "Oh my God, I didn't have to think twice about it." So, I suppose it does feel like all the stars were aligning, and thank God it took them 27 years to make it.

Do you feel the responsibility to the "Les Mis" fans?

Completely. I am part of that musical theater world and I know there are some roles that are held up there. And there are people who play those roles who are right up there. It turned out I was acting opposite one of them, Colm Wilkinson, who originally created the role and was astonishing. It actually was really great having him there because there is probably, in terms of the ghosts of Valjean, no one more powerful ... than him.

You are known as being one of the most sincere Hollywood stars. Who is your role model for this humble quality?

My father has a lot of very humble qualities. He is more humble than I am. He is very quiet. If I think about it, there are many Jean Valjean qualities about my father. He has never said a bad word about anyone. He is a religious man in the more traditional sense, and yet he will never really talk about it. He is a man of action.

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Extras: Two featurettes titled "The Starting Line" and "Behind the Wheels."



The Words

Bradley Cooper stars as a writer whose drive to find success leads him to a dark decision. This is a literary nesting doll where each hidden layer is another author's story. The problem is that the further the script by directors Brian Klugman and Lee Sternthal moves from the center, the weaker the plot and characters get. What starts out as a poignant cautionary tale of the power and obsession that comes with the creative process slowly reveals itself to be little more than a so-so mystery with an unsatisfactory ending.

Extras: Extended special edition with an alternate ending, behind-the-scenes featurette and "A Gentleman's Agreement" production featurette. Blu-ray adds "Clay and Daniella" and "The Young Man and Celia" character featurettes.

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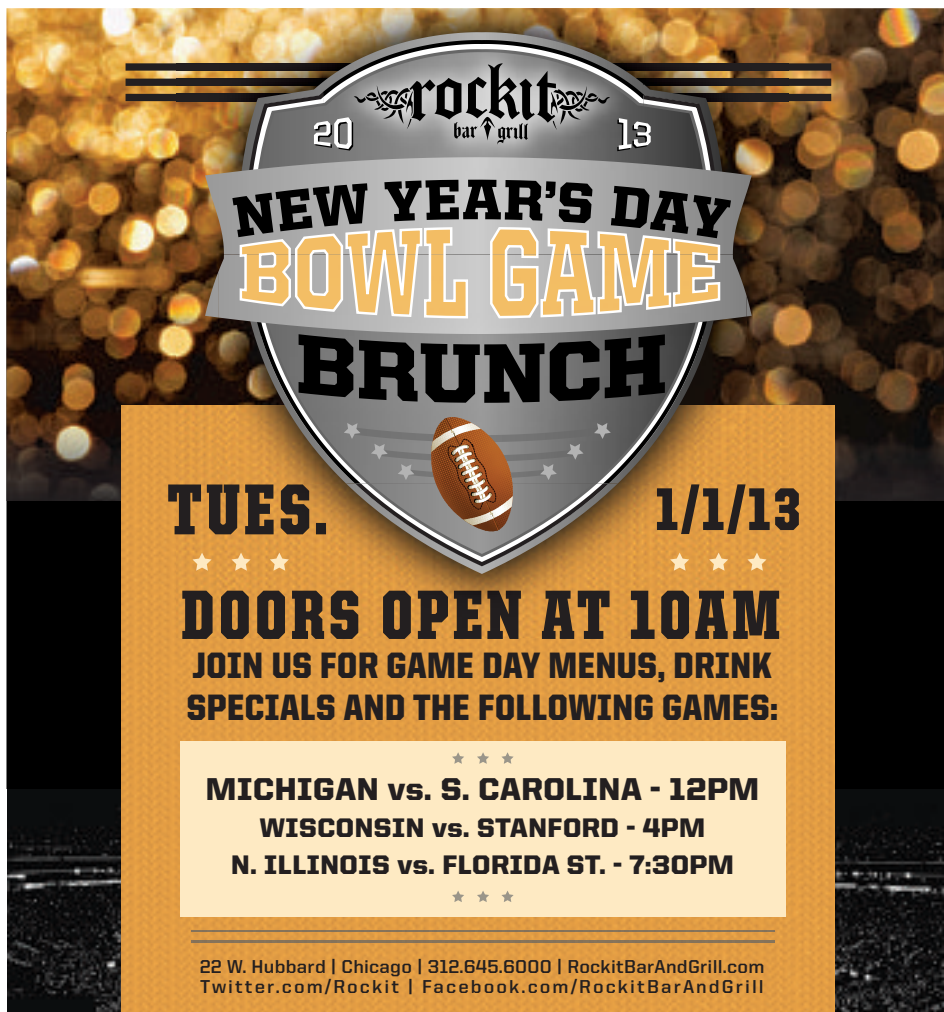
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Reuters

"You know," "whatever" is a really annoying term—"like" "you know." We're "just sayin'."

When it comes to the most annoying words or phrases used in conversation, those four top the list in 2012, according to the annual Marist Poll.

"Whatever" headed the list, cited by 32 percent of adults, and next came "like," which 21 percent didn't like.

Runners-up included "Twitterverse" and "gotcha."

The results mirrored last year's survey when "whatever" topped the annoying words list for a third straight year. But "seriously,"

named by 7 percent last year, dropped off the list entirely—really.

Marist questioned 1,246 adults in a nationwide telephone survey.

Results showed differences by age and regions, with people younger than 45 or in the Northeast especially annoyed by "like," while "you know" offended more of the 45-and-over set.

Men and women gave similar responses overall, but whites were twice as likely as non-whites to find "you know" irritating. And people 45 and younger were more than twice as likely as those older than 45 to be put off by "just sayin'."



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MAZDA 2004 MAZDA6 GRAND TOURING,
Leather, Moonroof, 5-Speed, CD, Spoiler, Alloys! Sharp &
Stylish! (V4077A) **\$7,488 888-401-3716**

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FORD 2011 FLEX SEL
Heated Leather, CD Changer, Rear A/C, 3rd Row Seat &
Alloys! (E3206A) **\$18,999 877-709-8856**

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HONDA 2007 ODYSSEY EXL, Navigation, Moonroof, Heated
Leather, DVD, Rear A/C, 8 Passenger, Alloys, All The Bells &
Whistles! (P8989A) **\$14,995 847-264-4283**

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MAZDA 2012 MAZDA5 SPORT,
31K Miles! All Power Options! CD, 3rd Row, Save Thousands
From New! (P9116) **\$15,988 888-647-3437**

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CHEVY 2003 CAVALIER LS COUPE
Only 74K Miles! Moonroof, CD, Spoiler, Chrome Rims,
Fully Loaded! (E3493A) **\$5,488 877-709-8856**

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JEEP 2007 COMMANDER SPORT 4X4,
Heated Leather, Dual Moonroofs, CD, Power Loaded,
3rd Row! Ready To Roll! (P8985A) **\$12,995 847-264-4283**

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CHEVY 2004 TRAILBLAZER EXT 4WD
All Power Options! Good Miles! (M1445A)
\$8,995 888-641-7122

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KIA 2011 SOUL 4DR, Only 7K Miles! Heated Black On Tan
Leather, Moonroof, Bluetooth, Alloys! Showroom Fresh!
(Y1474) **\$16,999 877-709-8856**

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VW 2007 JETTA 2.5 4DR,
Power Loaded, Leather, Moonroof, CD, A/C, Alloys!
Best Buy Anywhere! (E3224A) **\$11,995 847-264-4283**

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SMART 2008 FORTWO,
Only 15K Miles! Auto, Heated Seats, Moonroof, & Power!
(M1272A) **\$9,995 888-641-7122**

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NISSAN 2009 ALTIMA 2.5S 4DR,
Moonroof, Power Seats, CD, Full Power, Alloys! Great Price!
(Y1480) **\$14,988 877-709-8856**

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VW 2007 GTi COUPE,
Low 76K Miles! Moonroof, All Power Options! CD, A/C, Alloys!
Sweet Ride! (V3800A) **\$11,988 888-647-3437**

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BMW 2011 X3 xDrive30i AWD,
Only 13K Miles! Navigation, & More! (P1105)
\$37,995 888-641-7122

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2003 CHEVY VENTURE LS,
Quads, Rear A/C, Dual Power Sliders, Alloys! Family Ready!
(E3586A) **\$4,989 877-709-8856**

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Auto, All Power Options, CD, Bluetooth, A/C, Great MPG!
Sporty & Fun! (P9095) **\$14,988 888-647-3437**

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MINI 2009 COOPER CLUBMAN S
Only 37K Miles! One Owner! Premium & Cold Weather
Packages! (P1099) **\$19,995 888-641-7122**

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MAZDA 2007 MX-5 CONVERTIBLE,
Wow! Only 52K Miles! 5-Speed, CD, All Power, Alloys! Always
A Fun Ride! (P9108) **\$12,990 847-264-4283**

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MITSUBISHI 2012 GALANT FE 4DR,
29K Miles! All Power Options! CD, A/C, Alloys! Save
Thousands From New! (P9093) **\$14,488 888-647-3437**

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LEXUS 1999 ES300 SPORT
63K Miles! Only 63K Miles! Wow! Only 63K Miles! Pristine!
(M1886B) **\$8,995 888-641-7122**

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CHRYSLER 2002 SEBRING LX,
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GMC 2011 ACADIA DENALI AWD,
Only 7K Miles! Heated & Cooled Leather, Navigation, Rear
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HYUNDAI 2008 SANTA FE LIMITED,
Low Miles! One Owner! Heated Leather, Moonroof, XM, CD,
18 Inch Rims! (13199A) **\$16,988 866-314-4467**

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Power, & More! (V13155B) **\$9,788 866-549-9634**

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LEXUS 2003 GX470 4WD,
Gorgeous! Heated Leather, Moonroof, 3rd Seat, Power,
The Works! (V13222B) **\$15,988 866-549-9634**

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CHEVY 2012 MALIBU LTZ
30K Miles! Moonroof, Power Leather, Bluetooth, Alloys! Save
From New! (12058A) **\$19,750 877-231-5769**

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FORD 2003 EXPEDITION 4X4,
Heated Leather, DVD, 6-Disc CD, 3rd Row! Wow! Has It All!
(11999A) **\$11,650 877-231-5769**

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CHRYSLER 2005 TOWN & COUNTRY LIMITED 4DR
Heated Leather, DVD, Moonroof, Quads, Ultra Loaded Up!
(12026A) **\$10,895 877-231-5769**

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NISSAN 2008 ALTIMA 3.5SE V6 COUPE,
54K Miles! Moonroof, CD, Loaded Up! Alloys! Sharp Ride!
(1130095A) **\$16,992 877-231-5769**

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28K Miles! Navigation, Heated Leather, DVD In Headrests, &
More! (X01536A) **\$33,995 877-571-4269**

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INFINITI 2008 G37,
38K Miles! Navigation, Heated Leather, Moonroof, Power, &
More! (OV1662B) **\$24,995 877-571-4269**

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Tech Package, Navigation, Heated Leather, Moonroof, Power
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Low 75K Miles! Moonroof, All Power Options! CD, A/C, Alloys!
Fantastic Find! (27005A) **\$10,853 866-503-8017**

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Alloys! (E3206A) **\$18,999 877-709-8856**

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JEEP 2007 COMMANDER SPORT 4X4,
Heated Leather, Dual Moonroofs, CD, Power Loaded,
3rd Row! Ready To Roll! (P8985A) **\$12,995 847-264-4283**

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VW 2007 JETTA 2.5 4DR,
Power Loaded, Leather, Moonroof, CD, A/C, Alloys!
Best Buy Anywhere! (E3224A) **\$11,995 847-264-4283**

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GET READY to RUMBLE!



Ian Belknap
EVAN HANOVER PHOTO

Literary opponents face off at Write Club

By Julia Borcherts

FOR REDEYE

Literary fisticuffs abound at Write Club, where opponents duke it out with lightning-fast essays on pre-assigned, opposing topics. But is it really literature as blood sport?

"The stakes are real," says founder and self-proclaimed overlord Ian Belknap. "Writer-performers know right away, via hollering, blood-lusting audience, who wins or loses. [And the] artists fight for a cause—a cut of show proceeds are donated to charities of the winners' choosing. This avoids 'Dancing with the Stars'-style, bull[bleep] popularity contests and renders the entire enterprise one that's driven by purpose."

Since January 2010, when the monthly show debuted at the Hideout, Belknap has expanded into five additional cities—Atlanta, San Francisco, L.A., Toronto and Athens, Ga.—and plans to bring it to five more in 2013. A second monthly Chicago-area show kicks off Jan. 7 at Space in Evanston.

"If we do everything right," Belknap says, "a year from now, Write Club, Inc. will be donating \$30,000 per year to charity."

But first, there's the 2012 main event—the Write Club War on Xmas Benefit Show, in which Belknap ("Santa") takes on L.A. comedian Mike O'Connell ("Jesus"); former WNEP Theater artistic director Jen Ellison ("Give") battles National Poetry Slam champion Lisa Buscari ("Receive") and Encyclopedia Show founder Robbie Q. Telfer ("Naughty") steps up to 2nd Story literary director Megan Stielstra ("Nice"). The festivities include post-show treats and a champagne toast.

We caught up with Belknap to find out about the show's rules and quirks.

Why enforce a 7-minute time limit for competitors?

The Write Club aesthetic: start in the middle and go fast—no bios, no extemporized contextualizing, no dicking around. Overlord tells audience your assigned topic, sets the clock and you haul ass. It's the difference between those lights at the starting line of a drag race—red, yellow, PUNCH IT—versus the start of a lecture. For both driver and spectator, you know exactly when this thing is over. You wave the checkered flag and then the next pair of high-performance lit machines are at the starting line.

What's the strangest thing you've seen at Write Club?

The weirdest thing that happened to me personally—other chapters in other cities each have their tales of WTF-ness to report—was actually at the most recent show in November. The show was Thanksgiving-themed, and my bout was "Grateful vs. Hateful," my assignment being "Hateful."

I narrowly won against L.A. comic Nate Craig, and the judges—randomly selected audience volunteers—determined that I was [the] victor. After finding in my favor, though, this woman whom I do not know in the slightest—having apparently seen me perform in some other live lit show at some point—chastised me for the darkness of my piece, and let it be known that she wished in the future to see greater variety in my work, and that I had somehow proved disappointing to her.

So, though decades separate me from high school, I'm still publicly getting the "You have so much potential" speech.

Which two literary lions would you like to see duke it out on the Write Club stage?

I'd like to see George Saunders schooling [Jonathan] Franzen. I also obviously gotta get [Chuck] Palahniuk in there at some point. If

Write Club War on Xmas Benefit Show

Go: 6:30 p.m. Friday at the Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave.

Tickets: \$25; 773-227-4433; hideoutchicago.com/event/189985

More Write Club: 8:30 p.m. Jan. 5; 12 and 17 at the Fillet of Solo Festival, Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave.; 773-761-4477; lifelinetheatre.com (\$10)

I could time travel, I would bring the show back to Dorothy Parker and would likely never leave that era.

But another Write Club virtue is that it's an outstanding cross-pollinator; artists from many disciplines can excel. Dream bouts: Louis CK vs. Patton Oswalt; Paul Mooney vs. Dave Chappelle; any surviving cast member of "Monty Python" vs. any cast member of "Kids in the Hall;" Tina Fey vs. Amy Poehler; Nick Cave vs. Tom Waits; Maria Bamford vs. Sarah Vowell; Jon Stewart vs. [Stephen] Colbert.

I wanna see Dr. Cornel West crush anybody from Fox News. The possibilities are limitless.

JULIA BORCHERTS IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

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Hannibal Buress
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Hannibal Buress

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Tickets: \$35-\$45; 312-337-4027; zanies.com
Also: 8 and 10:30 p.m. Saturday at Zanies Rosemont; 7 p.m. Sunday at Zanies St. Charles

Hannibal the Conqueror

Buress returns to Chicago to rule New Year's stage with an iron funny bone

By Julia Borcherts

FOR REDEYE

Hannibal Buress has had a busy year—and shows no signs of slowing down.

The Chicago native, who has been hyped by Chris Rock and Aziz Ansari, currently co-stars on “The Eric Andre Show” on the Cartoon Network’s Adult Swim. In May, he debuted a Comedy Central special, “Hannibal Buress: Animal Furnace,” and he’s just signed a deal with ABC to write and co-star in a comedy pilot. And he hosts a weekly stand-up show at The Knitting Factory in Brooklyn.

This weekend Buress returns to the Chicago area for six shows—three on New Year’s Eve at Zanies in Old Town. RedEye chatted with the busy comic about his many projects.

What’s catching your attention right now that might make it into your stand-up shows at Zanies?

It’s just talking about life; if you find it funny, then that’s what it is. Some people delve into political issues, but for the most part that’s not my thing. I talk politics every now and then, but I like to talk about dinner or what it’s like to be in a taxi drunk or things like that.

How did “The Eric Andre Show” come to be?

Eric had this project he put it together a few years ago when we were both living in New

York. We shot a pilot that he funded on his own in a bodega in Brooklyn and then he started shopping it around and Adult Swim picked it up. It was something that was fun to do, but it didn’t seem like anything was going to happen [with] it for awhile ‘cause it had been a couple years. And then it came together and it’s been a lot of fun.

You just signed a deal with ABC to write and star in a comedy pilot about a police officer in a small suburban community. Where did you get the inspiration for that?

It’s loosely based on my cousin’s life. He moved to South Carolina to become a cop. A lot of the best things [in comedy] are rooted in real life. I mean, we didn’t take his whole life but his life was definitely the inspiration for it.

What’s next for you?

You just told me what was next. [Laughs.] I’m working on my show and touring, doing stand-up. I want to try to come up with some other show ideas—a reality show and some different things. I’m just working and constantly writing to try to generate content—that’s what I’m up to.

Where do you like to go when you’re back in Chicago?

There’s a bunch of spots in Chicago that I hit up. I always go to Old Town Ale House right after the Zanies shows just ‘cause it’s an easy walk around the corner. I’ve been going there for years.

JULIA BORCHERTS IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

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At first blush, a necktie that doubles as a cloth for cleaning your touch screen may sound like something out of a "Saturday Night Live" TV ad parody—"a floor wax and a desert topping!" But if you think about it, the ties and T-shirts from Swipe Apparel are kind of genius.

The idea behind the Swipe-Tie is simple: a silk necktie with a patch of microfiber fabric (the same stuff used for lens-cleaning cloths) behind the tip of the tie, at the ready to wipe smudges and greasy fingerprints from the screen of a smartphone or tablet.



The company also offers a Swipe-Tee—a cotton T-shirt with a similarly built-in swatch of microfiber. The shirts offer three options for placement of the cleaning cloth. The default location is the front inner lining of the shirt near the waist, but for an extra \$5 it can be placed on the left sleeve or the right sleeve (for lefties).

With the SwipeTie, the patch is sewn on. On the Swipe Tee, it's affixed with a Velcro-like adhesive. You'll find 10 color/pattern choices for the tie and five T-shirt designs at swipeswipe.com.

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Joanna Connor
Acoustic Set: 7:30pm-8:30pm
Bands start at 9:00pm



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LOOK FOR LESS

Seyfried stylish in winter wear

Los Angeles Times
Amanda Seyfried has been treating fans to a whirlwind fashion tour as she walked red carpets around the globe to promote her latest film, "Les Misérables."

Seyfried chose a ruffle-hemmed Balenciaga gown at the "Les Misérables" premiere in London, a gold bustier Alexander McQueen for the film's New York premiere and a Misha Nonoo spring 2013 white dress with clear panel hem at a luncheon in New York City.

The actress recently visited the Hollywood Walk of Fame for costar Hugh Jackman's star ceremony wearing a Burberry belted trench, Heroine leather tote by Alexander McQueen, tights, suede booties and some killer red tinted shades. She looked sophisticated, classic and every bit the movie star in stylish winter essentials.

Here are some ideas to help create a similar look:



A.J. Morgan front row sunglasses, \$24 at nordstrom.com

Quay retro sunglasses, \$19 at nordstrom.com

Ivanka Trump crystal top handle satchel handbag, \$175 at zappos.com

Ralph Lauren Tiara suede platform bootie, \$48.74 at ralphlauren.com

Merona water repellent classic trench coat in khaki with black piping, \$34.98 at target.com

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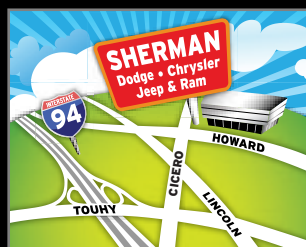
5.7 HEMI, 20" Chrome Wheels, Tow Hitch, Antilock 4-Wheel-Disc Brakes, Sentry Key® Theft Deterrent System, Power Windows w/Front One-Touch Up & Down, Exterior Mirrors w/ Heating Element, Tire Pressure Monitoring Warning Lamp, 12-Volt Auxiliary Power Outlet & More! #247767

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~Per Honda, based on 2011 New Car Sales in Chicago, IL ranking report. *0% for 60 mos: dealer buydown/\$16.67 per \$1000 financed; on select models in lieu of lease offer. \$0 max balance financed. Dealer buydown participation may affect final cost.

How to end 2012 with a major bang



Anna Pulley

» redeye@tribune.com
» @annapulley

Every year I dread New Year's Eve—the crazy cover charges, the pressure, the indecision, etc. I want this year to be different, and I don't want to end it alone. Isn't this the biggest party night of the year? Aren't people happy the world didn't end on 12/21 and want to get laid? How can I skew the odds in my favor?

—Screw Year's Eve

New Year's Eve is definitely THE date for hookups, with odds higher than Valentine's Day, Halloween and Arbor Day combined (but not Groundhog Day. Bill Murray's sexual prowess has ruined the standard for everyone). Just because more people are looking to have their corks popped than usual doesn't mean it's an effortless endeavor. Here are a few tips to help end your year with a bang.

The Good

If you have a friend-with-benefits, booty call or ex you're on good terms with, this is the time to call them. You already know how they'll be in the sack, and odds are they might be avoiding the party scene too. Invite them over for a low-key dinner and movie at your place. By hanging with them when the ball drops, it's a surefire bet that the pants will drop too.

The Pretty Good

House parties, remember those? They're still fun post-college, and odds are that your friends who are throwing them know who's single and who you might hit it off with.

The OK

If you are going to a bar, make it one you actually like and frequent. You'll feel more comfortable, you'll know the clientele, and they'll probably give you a free drink or two regardless of whether you end up sucking face with anyone. Exceptions: If your preferred watering hole is an old-man dive bar, choose a different one. I love Polish liquor



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stores as much as the next 85-year-old, but tonight you're looking for scores not of the bingo variety.

The Awesome!

Remember that in the end, NYE isn't even a real holiday. It's barely a moment, and then

it's over. There are plenty of reasons to hate on it (you listed a few in your question), but I encourage you to leave your expectations at the door and focus on having the best time you possibly can.

And remember—the CTA is free on New Year's Eve, so don't be a fool and drive drunk.

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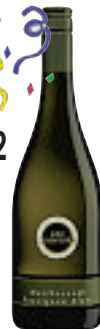
Veuve Clicquot
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Kim Crawford
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Ayala "Brut Majeur" Brut Champagne NV	32.99
Bollinger "Special Cuvée" Brut Champagne NV	Inquire!



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92-100 Points, Wine Spectator.

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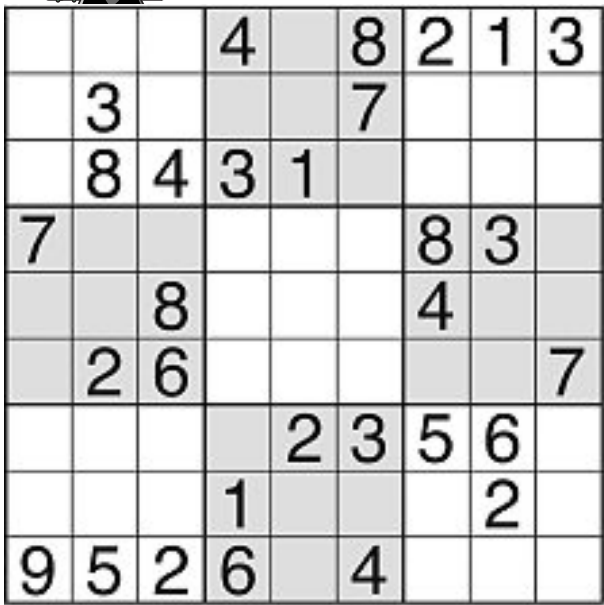
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puzzles



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



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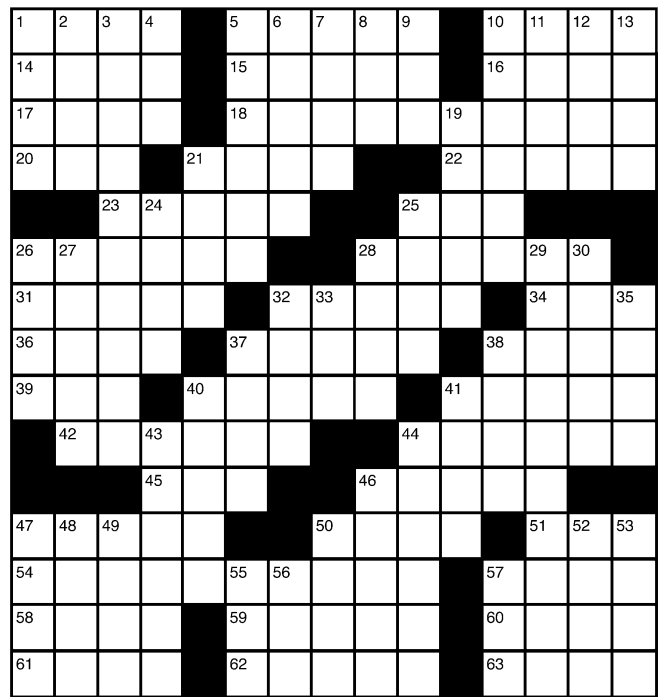


ACROSS

- 1 Actor Robert Ensnar
- 5 Cleansing bar
- 14 Continent east of Russia
- 15 Summarize
- 16 "Les Miserables" author Victor
- 17 Saved
- 18 Banishes
- 20 Asner & Koch
- 21 Actors' signals
- 22 Got up
- 23 Burst forth
- 25 BPOE member
- 26 Bawl out
- 28 Distorts
- 31 Lisa Marie's dad
- 32 Short
- 34 Groove
- 36 Enthusiastic
- 37 Advertising circular
- 38 Passenger fee
- 39 Last calendar page
- 40 Courtied
- 41 Spectrum
- 42 Whispered confidence
- 44 Throws
- 45 Belonging to that fellow
- 46 Page or LaBelle
- 47 Desert refuge
- 50 Copenhagen
- 51 Actor _ Hanks
- 54 Shining
- 57 Oliver Twist's request
- 58 Clark Kent and Lois _
- 59 Judge's mallet
- 60 Zone
- 61 School subj.
- 62 Waterbirds
- 63 Abnormal sac

DOWN

- 1 Angel food _
- 2 Secondhand
- 3 Empty talk
- 4 Mrs. Nixon
- 5 Group of actors
- 6 Adjust a clock
- 7 _ up; misbehaves
- 8 _ for the course;



- 9 Mineral spring
- 10 _ one's duty;
- 11 Greek liqueur
- 12 Gets older
- 13 Prepare to be photographed
- 19 Neighbor of Nevada
- 21 Slices
- 24 Sudden attack
- 25 Vase-shaped pitcher
- 26 Rosary piece
- 27 Santa's helpers
- 28 _ up; bound
- 29 Not lasting
- 30 Sudden increase
- 32 Spot; smudge
- 33 Bread for a Reuben
- 35 _ off; irritates
- 37 Enemies
- 38 Quick
- 40 Watch's place
- 41 Learn by _; memorize
- 43 Sculptor's tool
- 44 Become ensnared
- 46 Glass squares
- 47 Make eyes at
- 48 Actor Rachins
- 49 Warble
- 50 Headfirst plunge
- 52 Raw minerals
- 53 Ham or beef
- 55 Oval edible
- 56 "No," to a Scot
- 57 Apple computer

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who

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

Either Anderson Cooper is a much better sport than we thought, or something fishy is going on here. CNN announced Thursday that the silver fox will be back alongside ginger she-devil Kathy Griffin to host its New Year's Eve coverage for the sixth consecutive year. Since stripping down to her undies and cussing out random hecklers is so "been there, done that," we've imagined a few ways Kathy might divide her magical evening in Times Square. [DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM](#) | @REDEYEDANA

Kathy Griffin and Anderson Cooper have another NYE date



Ball droppers

40%

Speaking through her new ventriloquist's dummy, Velma Goldthwait. She is not not more annoying than Kathy.

10%

Prank-calling her mother, who probably is on at least her fifth box of wine.

20%

Trying to figure out whether Anderson wears boxers, briefs or boxer briefs. Our money is on the third.

15%

Practicing Britney Spears' snake dance... but no one would give her a snake.

8%

Wheeling her way into a real job for CNN.

7%

Saying nice things about Anderson's choice of cologne. Mmmmmmm, Hugo Boss.



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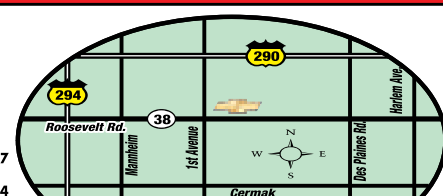
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red hot

THE DIGIT

\$17.5 MILLION

Lucky for "Les Miserables," it seems moviegoers were in the mood for music this Christmas. The flick grossed about \$17.5 million at the box office, beating other new releases such as "Django Unchained" and "Parental Guidance," according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Kate Winslet is hitched again! She has married for the third time, her publicist confirmed Thursday. The 37-year-old tied the knot this month with Ned Rocknroll, a nephew of music and aviation tycoon Richard Branson. The private ceremony took place in New York and was attended by Winslet's two children from previous marriages.

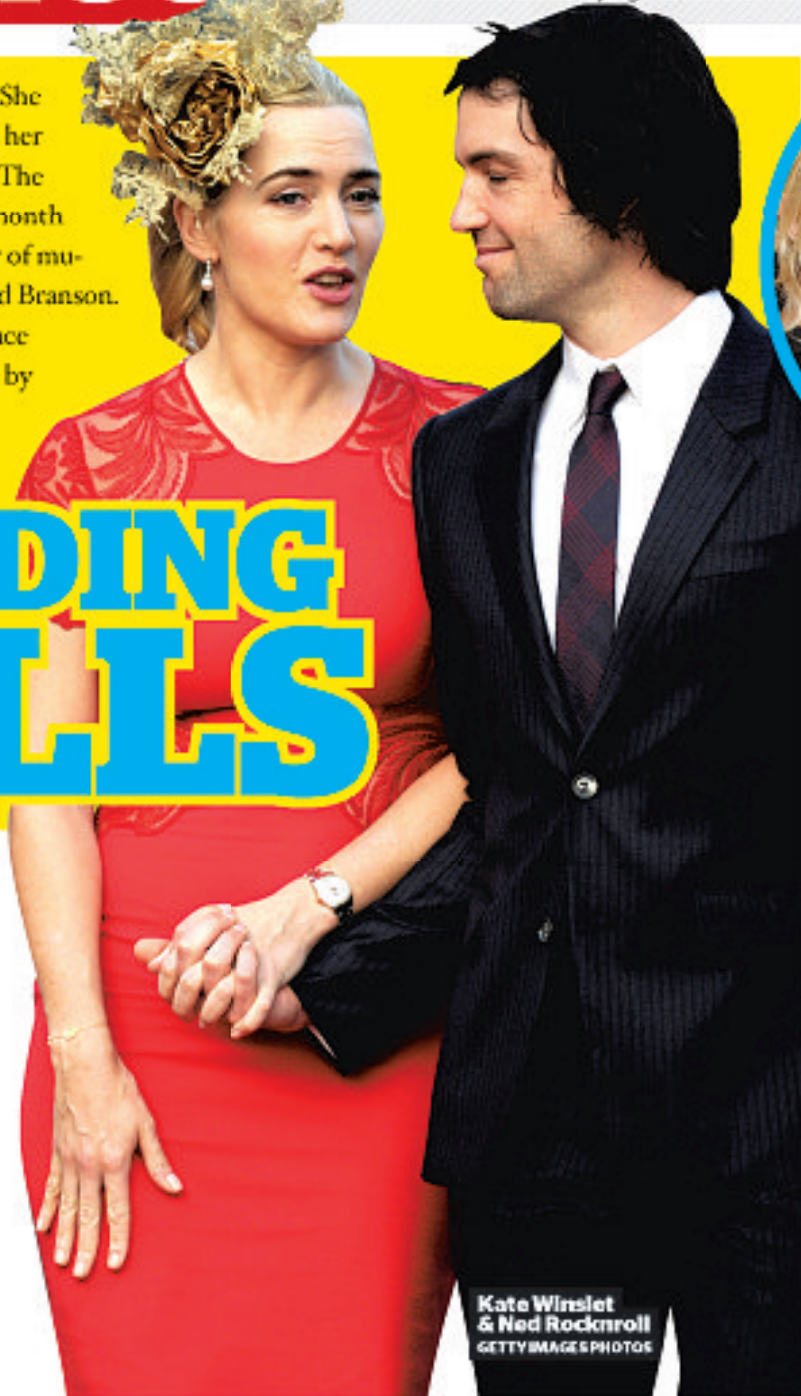
WEDDING BELLS

'X'-it strategy

Is Britney out? Us Weekly reports that Spears won't be returning to Fox's "The X Factor" for the third season. Fox has not commented on the story. Spears would join other famous cast-offs Paula Abdul, Nicole Scherzinger and L.A. Reid.

Stealing the show

HBO's "Game of Thrones" was the most illegally downloaded show in 2012 according to a study by TorrentFreak, which cited airing delays and the show not being readily available online as the main reasons. Showtime's "Dexter" was the second most pirated show.



Kate Winslet & Ned Rocknroll
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS



Jessie Baylin & Nathan Followill

Fit for Kings of Leon

Kings of Leon drummer Nathan Followill and his wife, singer-songwriter Jessie Baylin, welcomed their first child, El News reports. "I can proudly announce the birth of my sweet angel Violet Marlowe Followill. My heart has been stolen and it feels so good," Followill tweeted.

Pregger TV

After confirming her pregnancy, Jessica Simpson's new Weight Watchers commercial has hit the Web. Simpson reiterates her exciting news in the ad, saying, "Being healthy has become a part of who I am, which is great timing because I'm having another baby."



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